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# THE TIMES

The Greeks had a  
way of playing  
the Games, page 14

## BL refuses job for Mr Robinson and strike is called

There is no possibility of Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed communist convener, being reinstated, BL told the engineering union yesterday. The union immediately ordered a strike of its 8,000 mem-

bers at the plant in Longbridge, Birmingham. The company warned the union that the strike could lead to more than 50,000 BL workers being laid off almost at once and that all new investment would stop.

### 50,000 workers could be laid off

By David Felton and Donald Macintyre

British Leyland management yesterday firmly ruled out any possibility that Mr Derek Robinson, the dismissed communist union convener, would be reinstated. This brought the immediate response from his union that a strike of its 8,000 members at BL's Longbridge plant will go ahead.

Mr Ray Horrocks, managing director of BL Cars, said: "We are not prepared to allow strike action to reverse a decision which, we are convinced, was fully justified." He gave a warning that a strike could put thousands of jobs at risk and could lead to BL's plans for new models, including the Mini Metro, being amended.

Mr Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said after hearing of the company's rejection of the union's demand that Mr Robinson be reinstated: "We consider this a tragedy. We are convinced they are wrong on this issue and most reluctantly we are collision-bound."

Mr Horrocks said in a letter to Mr Duffy, setting out the state car firm's position: "Before Austin Morris dismissed Mr Robinson all the possible consequences were considered. No new fact has emerged that would justify a reconsideration of our decision. It is clear that not only our management but many Longbridge employees as well are convinced that the decision was right."

The letter went on: "I think it is common ground that if BL Cars is to survive (and we are determined it will) management and employees must work constructively together. It is our view that Mr Robinson's conduct over the past two years has proved convincingly that he is not prepared to work constructively either with the company or, indeed, with your



Mr. Robinson: "Unsuitable on his track record."

Mr. Robinson urged Mr Duffy to call off the strike or, at the very least, hold a secret ballot to gauge the opinion of the work force.

At a press conference Mr Horrocks rejected the findings of the AUEW's own inquiry into the dismissal of Mr Robinson for distributing a leaflet urging the work force to oppose the plans of Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, to re-organize the company, with 25,000 job losses.

Mr Horrocks said the inquiry report had concentrated on how Mr Robinson was dismissed and not why. He maintained that in March last year Mr Robinson was given a verbal warning for calling an unofficial strike, against the advice of his union.

He said that in March there was no doubt that Mr Robinson knew that he was being formally disciplined. Mr Horrocks alleged that on this occasion Mr Robinson said: "I've got the message, but don't try to sack either me or Jack Adams because you will see what will happen". Mr Adams was one of three other signa-

tories to the leaflet who were disciplined when Mr Robinson was dismissed.

The leaflet, entitled *The Edwards Plan and your job*, was compiled by the unofficial Leyland combined trade union committee, of which Mr Robinson was recently re-elected chairman.

Mr Horrocks reiterated the claim first made by Sir Michael Edwards that there had been a "miserable record of disputes and lost time since Mr Robinson became convener". This included 523 internal disputes in three years, which lost production of 113,000 engines and 62,000 cars, excluding the national engineering strike last year and other external disputes.

"I have to admit to a feeling of surprise that, given the whole series of public statements made by Mr Robinson over recent months, he would wish to be employed by the company", Mr Horrocks said in the letter.

The company said that a strike at Longbridge would lead to more than 50,000 BL workers being laid off with a knock-on effect upon component suppliers.

The cash position makes it impossible for it to cushion this effect in any way by building for stock, so the lay-offs will be immediate. Austin Morris and other major parts of BL Cars will stop. All new investment will stop, with inevitable delays to new model programmes like the Mini Metro", the company said.

Should this action make it impossible for the company to achieve its 1980 corporate plan, BL Cars will have no option but to recommend to the BL board the withdrawal of the plan."

Mr Horrocks told the press conference: "Right now, on his track record, Mr. Derek Robinson is not suitable for re-

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Dockers to strike over pay

One thousand dockers in London are to be called out on strike from Monday. Picket lines will be mounted at the Royal Group, the India and Millwall and at Tilbury.

Although the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union has only 1,000 of the 3,300 workforce in the enclosed docks, members of the rival Transport and General Workers' Union are not expected to cross picket lines.

This means about half London's docks will be idle.

A decision to give 21 days notice of strike action unless the London Enclosed Docks Employers' Association increased its 12 per cent pay offer was taken last month.

On Tuesday the talks broke down when the employers' offer was rejected by both unions. The transport union, known as the "white" union because of the colour of its cards, has instituted an overtime ban and one-day strikes. It has been demanding a 43 per cent pay rise. The stevedores and dockers' union wants a 30 per cent rise.

Shipowners are expected to move many of their vessels out of the docks during the two-week strike.

The employers were trying yesterday to set up new talks for next week.

## Employment Bill to be ready by August

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor

Senior ministers disclosed last night that whatever the pressures from current industrial disputes the Government did not intend to rush the passage of its controversial employment Bill, which limits trade union powers.

It was expected that the Bill would be on the statute book by August, in time for next autumn's round of industrial action, and not before.

To that extent, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, has won one round in his struggle with those Cabinet colleagues who have been pressing for tougher measures.

The only new development was Mrs Margaret Thatcher's undertaking in the Commons to bring the Government's eventual proposal on immunities to the floor of the House rather than treat it in committee.

Pressed by Mr. James Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister categorically refused to abandon the Bill in favour of a new round of consultations with the TUC. But Mr. Callaghan had meant her to defer only the Government's new proposals on immunities.

He said he recognized the general impatience with strikers' actions, but in changing the law they had to be sure they got it right, and not repeat the mistakes of the 1973-74 confrontation.

To the four or five MPs who wondered why quicker action was not possible, Mr. Prior reportedly answered that a further industrial relation bill a year or so hence might

be possible to deal with such conservative commitments as curbing social security benefits to strikers.

But he gave no promises and pleaded for understanding in building on his bill and the proposed amendment on immunities as the first stage.

He was reported to have been warmly received.

However, the measures to narrow union immunities regarding secondary industrial action remain to be agreed and defined. The Cabinet meeting yesterday did not return to the failure of ministers to agree on Wednesday to the draft proposals on union immunities presented by Mr. Prior.

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## GEC decides to counter new Racal bid

After bids from Racal and GEC and a counter offer from Racal which values Decca at £50m, Sir Arnold Weinstock's GEC announced that it would extend its original £52.5m bid. On the news of the increased offer, Decca's share gained 15p to 550p, which is still some way short of Racal's best offer. Page 17

## EEC plan may put £150m on food prices

An increase in the minimum prices guaranteed to the EEC's eight million farmers of between 1.5 and 3.5 per cent for the 1980-81 marketing year was announced by Mr Finn Ulay Gundelach, European Commissioner for Agriculture. It is estimated that this would mean an increase of about £150m in consumer expenditure on food in Britain. Page 5

Moscow: Bolshoi deflections brings to light long quarrel over "stiffly conservative" repertoire

## Reservists' call-up in Rhodesia

Police and security force reservists in Southern Rhodesia are "virtually certain" to be called up to provide "adequate protection" during the general election at the end of the month. The continuing wave of intimidation and violence around the country was said to have influenced the authorities who had held the force on stand-by for some time.

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## Abdication favoured

A survey by Marplan shows that a majority of people think the Queen should abdicate at a fixed age and allow the Prince of Wales to be King. Of those in favour of abdication, 65 per cent thought the right time to be her 60th birthday.

Page 2

## Denning ruling upset

The Law Lords reversed a ruling by Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal last July that a public inquiry into the proposed M40 and M42 motorway extensions should be reopened. The decision will be a blow to anti-roads campaigners who brought the case to challenge inquiry procedures. Page 3

More than a million journeys have been made in the first nine months of British Rail's family railcard scheme and railway managers predict even greater success in the next few years. Page 4

## Railcard success

Letters: On trade unions and the law, from Lord Wedderburn of Charlton and others; on expanding the reserve forces, from Mr Michael Stephen and Mr. Philip Smith

Leading articles: Afghanistan; Page 6

Gregory F. Treverton on defence

and two views in the West; Dr Tony Smith on heart transplants

Sport, pages 7, 8

Cricket: John Woodcock reviews

Decca's tour of Australia; Page 9

Business News, pages 17-22

Stock markets: Equities made

further progress on hopes of an

early end to the steel strike. Gilt

showed rises of about 50p and the

Index closed 7.0 up at 462.9

Financial Editor: GEC will re-

open London and County paying

up

Business features: Darrell De-

maido on criticisms that the

German Post Office is misusing its

monopoly

## £225,000 award

A settlement of £225,000, believed to be a record award for injuries, was agreed in Court in favour of a scafolder who fell 30 ft while working above a main road in Staffordshire. Page 4

## £600,000 test tube baby expected

Australia's first test tube baby is due to be born in four months as a result of an eight-year programme costing \$1.2m (£500,000). A laboratory-fertilized embryo has been transferred into the uterus of a 26-year-old nurse, married to a schoolteacher. This led to a healthy pregnancy. Page 6

Education proposals: Means test plans for assisted places in independent schools announced

Page 2

North Sea fire-fighters: Duke of Edinburgh inaugurates £40m emergency vessel

Page 3

Civil Defence: Seventy MPs sign early motion calling for re-inforcement of corps to protect civilians

Page 4

Gibraltar: Sir Joshua Hassan's Govern-

ment is returned to power in the elec-

tions to the House of Assembly

Page 5

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## HOME NEWS

# Steel unions expected to aim for 20% rise in pay talks lasting throughout this weekend

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

The British Steel Corporation (BSC) will formally unveil its new pay offer to steel union leaders this morning, at the opening of negotiations that are confidently predicted to be lengthy.

Full details of the wages and conditions package designed to end the national steel strike, now nearing the end of its sixth week, will be given to the 60 members of the lay negotiating committee of the dominant Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) and its leaders of the National Union of Blastfurnacemen.

BSC hopes that the union

negotiators will continue talking right through the weekend to prevent the bargaining momentum faltering. Today's talks represent the first serious attempt to find a solution since British Steel plants were shut down on January 2 by the first completed stoppage in the industry since 1926.

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, believes that the corporation has reallocated money originally earmarked for investment, operating costs and redundancies under the £450m of public support for the industry in 1980-81 to finance an early settlement of the dispute.

He describes that as a "silent U-turn" by the Govern-

ment, which has until now insisted that taxpayers' money should not be used to pay for a wages deal.

How far the steelworkers' leader is right will become apparent to his negotiators when British Steel presents the seventh version of its proposals on wages and jobs to the union today. The corporation is expected to fight hard to retain many of the job flexibility and de-manning elements originally demanded when it was looking for an entirely self-financing settlement.

But the mood of the lay

negotiators has hardened after nearly six weeks of strike without dispute benefit, and the demand for 20 per cent with-

our strings that started on the picket lines has now gained a much wider currency. Mr Sirs will have a difficult task in persuading his negotiators to accept conditions or wage rises lower than the 20 per cent given to the miners, who did not even threaten a strike.

In another key area of public sector pay negotiations, union leaders of 95,000 manual workers in the electricity supply industry yesterday adjourned their pay talks until March 6. The unions are asking for "substantial" wage rises, a shorter working week and other improvements. Privately, they too are talking about a settlement at least as generous as that of the miners.

## The Queen should abdicate at 60, poll finds

By a Staff Reporter

Most people believe that the Queen should abdicate at a fixed age and allow the Prince of Wales to become king, according to a survey conducted by Marplan for the current issue of the magazine *Now*.

Of those in favour of abdication, nearly two-thirds thought the Queen should retire in seven years, at the age of 60.

The poll, based on a nationally representative sample of 961 adults, was taken in the light of the decision by Queen Juliana of the Netherlands to abdicate on her 71st birthday in favour of Crown Princess Beatrix, who is 42.

The results differ markedly

from the last opinion poll

taken on the subject five

months ago, which showed

only 40 per cent in favour of abdication.

This time, 58 per cent

thought that the Queen should

retire at a fixed age, 10 per

cent thought she should retire

now and 32 per cent thought

she should remain Queen until her death.

Of those in favour of her

abdication, 65 per cent thought

the right time would be her

60th birthday. Slightly more

women than men favoured

abdication, but there was no

significant difference of

opinion between young and old

people.

The result reflects the high

personal popularity of Prince

Charles.

When asked who was the

most likable member of the

Royal Family, and who was the

second most likable, Prince

Charles was named by a total

of 70 per cent, the Queen by

46 per cent, Queen Elizabeth

the Queen Mother 30 per cent,

the Duke of Edinburgh 21 per

cent, Prince Andrew 11 per

cent, Princess Alexandra 9 per

cent, Princess Anne 4 per cent,

and Princess Margaret 3 per

cent.

An overwhelming majority

favoured the continuation of a

constitutional monarchy, with

only 15 per cent in favour of a

republic with an elected presi-

dent. A majority thought the

media's coverage of the Royal

Family was generally fair, but

54 per cent thought Princess

Margaret was unfairly treated.

The survey indicated that

the only criticism of the Royal

Family was that they were too

stuffy, with Princess Anne being

the most out of touch with

ordinary people. Most

people, however, thought the

Monarchy gave good value for

money.

"If the union is not prepared

to take a secret ballot then

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indication from the members at

Longbridge as to their feelings

about a successful strike call

or not.

"I would be prepared to talk

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be prepared to listen to Mr

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posals forward, but I have to

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his time," Mr Horrocks said.

The Birmingham West dis-

trict committee of the AUEW,

which will reconvene tonight,

was officially instructed to

"activate" the strike decision,

shortly after a letter bearing

Mr Horrocks' response.



Mr. Horrocks at a press conference yesterday when he rejected the union's findings on Mr. Robinson.

## Union says BL strike goes ahead

Continued from page 1

employment by the company.

If tomorrow he applies as a new

recruit in any of our plants the

personnel director would want

to know his track record and I

think it would be highly

unlikely that he would be hired.

However, if in 10 years time

he has had a better track record

with some other company and he

comes back to us, he might be

taken on.

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taken by hand to the union's Peckham headquarters.

The union's executive expects the strike to begin on Tuesday or possibly Wednesday. District committee representatives are expected to meet more than 200 AUEW shop stewards at Longbridge on Monday.

Mr. Duffy maintained that he was confident the company would be disappointed in the belief that the strike would not be fully supported.

"They call us moderates, but we are not a lot of chickens. We will take anyone on if we think we are right and we think we are right," he said.

"If people think that by taking on one man they can ruin the power of the shop stewards' movement, they are wrong."

Mr. Duffy said he still hoped the company would reconsider its decision.

It is clear that the executive would have been prepared to negotiate a compromise, under which Mr. Robinson would have been reinstated as an employee but stripped of his convenor status.

Mr. Duffy said: "Our first priority has been to get him his job back and have him working in the trade."

The matter had not, however, been discussed with the company and such a compromise had now been pre-empted by Mr. Horrocks' statement ruling it out.

## Civil Service unions sink their differences

By David Felton  
Labour Reporter

A split among the nine Civil Service unions was averted yesterday when the three main unions compromised on their plans to form a new negotiating committee and exclude the smaller unions.

Decisions to change the organization of the staff side of the Civil Service, National Whitley Council were unanimous at the meeting yesterday. The name of the organization is also to be changed to the Council of Civil Service Unions.

The most controversial and potentially damaging proposal came from the three large unions led by the Society of Civil and Public Servants, which was unhappy at the lack of backing from the smaller unions when there was industrial action in the Civil Service last year.

The society, together with the Civil and Public Services Association and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, wanted to form a top-tier negotiating committee to handle issues of pay and conditions of work. In order to maintain a united front from the "gang of three", as they have been described by one of the smaller unions, agreed to other unions joining the committee when discussions related to their specific areas of influence.

Further reorganization of the staff side includes bigger lay representation on the main body (including total membership of 63 compared with 22 at the moment), which will meet quarterly, and an expanded second tier comprising secretaries of unions and their deputies and lay representatives, which is a new feature.

Yesterday's agreements will form the basis of a new constitution, which is to be drawn up by March 1980.

Many of the criticisms made of the staff side were seen in some quarters to have been directed at Mr. William Kendall, its secretary general, but yesterday's meeting gave him a clean bill of health.

## Two shot chasing payroll thieves

Two Glasgow men were shot and wounded yesterday as they chased thieves who ambushed their company's messengers and stole the payroll of £5,000.

The thieves, who were armed with a sawn-off shotgun, escaped in a car which was found abandoned less than a mile from the company's premises in Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow.

## Bus crews attacked

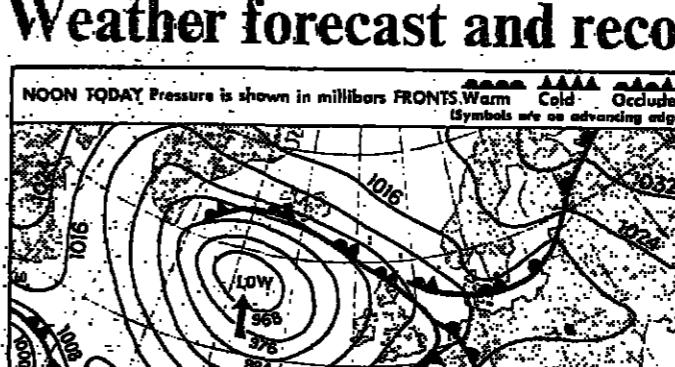
Busmen in Nottingham are withdrawing late-night services on Fridays and Saturdays for the next three weeks after a number of attacks on crews.

## Laundries road, Maida Vale

London, April 1980. They were also found guilty of unlawfully causing Mr. Albert Speer, a visitor from New Guinea, to take an overpowering drug, to enable them to steal from him. Mr. Speer was found not guilty of this charge.

Mr. Butt and Mr. Nasir were also convicted of stealing rings, a camera, passport, travellers' cheques, and other articles worth £7,325 from Mr. Speer at the President Hotel, Russell Square, London, in April.

## Weather forecast and recordings



## HOME NEWS

## Law Lords overturn Denning ruling for reopening of inquiry into motorway extensions

By John Young  
Planning Reporter

The House of Lords yesterday overturned a decision by Lord Denning in the Court of Appeal last July that a public inquiry into the proposed M40 and M42 motorway extensions should be postponed.

The decision could come as a bitter blow to anti-motorway campaigners who instigated the case as a challenge to inquiry procedures.

A writ was lodged in the High Court by the M42 Action Group in October, 1976, alleging that the inquiry inspector had acted improperly in accepting a claim by the Department of the Environment that methods of forecasting future traffic flows were a matter of government policy and could not be challenged at inquiries.

An application for the inquiry to be reopened was rejected by the High Court in December, 1977; but subsequently Lord Denning de-

clared that it should be reopened to consider new information which had since come to light.

At that time he said that further delay was preferable to leaving the objectors with a sense of grievance. "There has been a deplorable loss of confidence in public inquiries," he said.

But yesterday the Law Lords ruled by a four-to-one majority that Lord Denning was wrong to quash the approval of the motorway "proposed by the Secretary of State for the Environment". The latter's appeal was, therefore, upheld.

Dissenting, Lord Edmund Davies said that the inspector's refusal to allow cross-examination on methods of calculating traffic forecasts meant that objectors were denied a "fair crack of the whip".

Mr George Knott, chairman of the M42 Action Committee, said last night that the House

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## Developer threatens lawsuit over delay

By Our Planning Reporter

A developer yesterday threatened to take legal action against Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, over what he considers unnecessary delay in approving a proposed shopping centre in Hull.

Chesterfield Properties Ltd claimed that Mr Heseltine's decision to "call in" the planning application just before it was approved by Hull City Council was a waste of time and money.

## Wider base for inner city revival urged

By Our Planning Reporter

Both the company and the council have applied for the costs incurred in a public inquiry which ended last week, at which not one objector appeared.

Mr Roger Wingate, managing director of the company, said yesterday that the department had given no reasons for wishing to interfere with the planning policies of both the city and county councils. If the scheme was not approved before the end of April, the company

would take proceedings in the High Court.

A council official said that the council supported Chesterfield's position and felt that it had a legitimate grievance. The whole inquiry had been quite unnecessary.

The department said yesterday that it had been concerned about the effect of another proposed shopping scheme in the city, and had considered that the two applications should be examined together.

## "WHY OUR EXPORT PIPELINE IS FULL OF CARS-NOT PROMISES"

"Eight years ago we decided to reduce our dependence on home market sales by going harder for exports—especially to North America," says David Plastow, Group Managing Director, Rolls-Royce Motors Ltd

"The cash-flow benefits of our ECGD insurance policy enabled us to take on the scale of investment to provide stocks and

back-up services so essential to our business, and ensured that we could deliver on time.

"With ECGD backing we've achieved our objective—our car exports this year will approach the £75 million mark, 60% of our production. Throughout this period of rapid growth ECGD and our bankers have worked closely with us, and both have been quick to understand our commercial as well as our financial needs."

## Union questions minister on future of London hospital

By Annabel Ferriman

The National Union of Public Employees has written to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, asking whether St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, London, is to be sold to the private sector of medicine after its closure on June 30.

Mr Ian Scott, a NUPE area officer, asks how much of the site is owned by the Department of Health and Social Security

and whether it intends to sell that once the hospital is closed. At present £20,000 is being spent on scaffolding there, which the union considers "surprising", the letter says.

The DHSS said yesterday that it owned the northern half of the site. The southern half was subject to a covenant by which it had to be offered back to its previous owners, the Grosvenor Estate, if the department ceased to use it as a hospital.

## Man 'escaped in suicide pact with brothers'

Charles Appleton, aged 29, told the police how he cheated death in a suicide pact in which his brother died under an express train. Mr H. T. Blakiston, the Ryedale coroner, told an inquest at Easingwold, North Yorkshire.

He had said he and his brother, Brian, aged 44, a farmworker at Kirby Hill, Broughbridge, North Yorkshire, laid their heads across the east coast main line.

Detective Inspector Donald Johnson, of North Yorkshire CID, said Mr Charles Appleton, of Chestnut Grove, Baldersby, near Thirsk, had said: "I lost my nerve and tried to pull Brian away but it was too late".

Mr Charles Appleton refused to give evidence. The jury returned a verdict that Mr Brian Appleton killed himself.

Dead birds and fish tested for canister poison

Dead fish and birds found on the beach at Worthing, Sussex, yesterday, were being examined to see if they had been contaminated by poisonous fumes from canisters washed ashore from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky.

Some of the canisters contain arsenic trichloride, which gives off deadly fumes if exposed to air.

Hundreds of the canisters from the ship, which sank in November off Portland, Dorset, have been found on the Isle of Wight and south coast beaches. The public have been warned not to touch them; but to tell the police.

Seven people, including two policemen, were taken to hospital earlier this week after being affected by fumes from a split canister at Shoreham.

## Youth in a temper killed friend with putter

From Our Correspondent  
Manchester

A moment's loss of temper by a boy of 16 caused the death of a friend. It was stated at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr John Hugill, QC, for the prosecution, said that during an argument on a putting green in a park at Chorlton, Manchester, the defendant lashed out with a putter, striking his friend on the head, causing a cerebral haemorrhage from which he died shortly afterwards.

The boy was given a conditional discharge for two years by Judge Prest, QC, who said: "It does not seem to me that either in your interest or in the interest of the law it would be appropriate to deprive you of your liberty."

"It may be difficult for the dead boy's family to understand

this, but I am punishing you for what you did and not for the tragic results of that one single blow."

"You each used violence, but I do not believe that either of you intended seriously to hurt the other."

The boy, from Brunswick, Manchester, accepted the manslaughter of his friend, also aged 16, from Chorlton.

Mr Hugill said that one evening last July, an argument started after the defendant was refused permission to join a game of putting and became abusive to the other boy. Later the defendant was bitten and punched in the face.

The defendant struck out with the putter hitting the other boy on the base of the skull. He tried to bring him round but the other boy died soon afterwards.

## NF rally in Belfast faces strong opposition

From Christopher Thomas  
Belfast

A attempt by the National Front to establish itself in Northern Ireland has provoked urgent consultations between politicians, trade unions and student organizers.

The police have authorized a National Front rally outside the American consulate building in the centre of Belfast on February 23, ostensibly to protest about the United States arms embargo on the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The students' union at Queen's University, Belfast, plans a counter-demonstration leaving aside the arms question and concentrating its protest on the organization's racial policies.

The Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union in Belfast is urgently studying the best response and attempts are being made to call all trade unions together to formulate a joint stand with politicians, students, and local community groups. That might lead to the establishment of a branch of the Anti-Nazi League.

Mr Tony Gallagher, deputy president of the students' union, said last night: "We are not going to go looking for confrontation because that would suit the National Front. We will not be replying to the issue they are raising because that has been picked merely to give a platform for their more infamous policies."



The Duke of Edinburgh on the new £40m oil rig support vessel MSV Tharos yesterday.

## Duke visits North Sea 'fire extinguisher'

The Duke of Edinburgh yesterday flew 110 miles out into the North Sea to see the world's most advanced oil rig support vessel and then to meet Mr Red Adair, the fire fighter, that it was "a very expensive fire extinguisher".

The Duke was inaugurating the MSV Tharos, the North Sea's newest and most sophisticated support vessel which is

helped us in every job we have had in the world. It is the most advanced thing there is," Mr Adair said.

Prince Philip's tour of the £40m vessel, which looks like an oil platform but is capable of moving at more than seven knots, took him into the diving chambers.

The vessel is operated by the Occidental Consortium.

## Young Sikh sues head on ruling over turban

From Our Correspondent  
Birmingham

A Sikh schoolboy who passed his examinations for a Birmingham private school was told by the headmaster that he could not be admitted unless he removed his turban and cut his hair. It was alleged at Birmingham County Court yesterday.

The Commission for Racial Equality, which is supporting an action for damages, is seeking a ruling by Judge Gosling as to whether Sikhs are a racial group who would have protection under the Race Relations Act.

Gurinder Singh Mandla, aged 11, and his father, Mr Sewa Singh Mandla, a solicitor, are claiming that the Park Grove private school in Edgbaston, Birmingham, and Mr A. G. Dowell Lee, the headmaster, were guilty of unlawful discrimination.

They claim damages for injured feelings and also say that the boy was discriminated against indirectly by the school enforcing a uniform rule.

Mr Mandla, of Caroline Close, Sandwell Valley, West Bromwich, said that his son agreed to the head's terms it would be regarded as an act of discrimination and cowardice by the Sikh community.

The school say that Sikhs are a religious, and not a racial group, and discrimination on religious grounds is not unlawful. They also maintain that adherence to school rules is sufficiently important to refuse the boy admission.

The hearing continues today.



ECGD insures from date of contract or despatch of goods. Cover is available for contracts in sterling or other approved currencies for: Continuous sales worldwide of raw and processed materials, consumer goods and production-line engineering goods.

ECGD also insures from date of contract or despatch of goods for: Sales through UK confirming houses and by UK merchants. Single large sales of capital equipment, ships and aircraft. Constructional works contracts.

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ECGD also insures from date of contract or despatch of goods for: Continuous sales worldwide of

## HOME NEWS

## BR getting families off the road for their leisure journeys

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

British Rail has scored a big success in winning traffic back from the private car with its new family railcard.

More than a million journeys have been made in the first nine months of the scheme and jubilant railway managers predict that within five years it will be transferring some 500 million passenger miles a year from road, with a revenue gain of £25m for British Rail and petrol savings for the country of about 16 million gallons a year.

The family railcard, costing £16 for a year's unlimited travel, per mits spouse and up to four children to travel for 50p each in the company of one full fare-paying adult. It differs from the other two card schemes, for students and pensioners, by aiming at a market with a high level of car ownership and accustomed to use.

Of more than 60,000 families to invest so far, BR's market research shows the typical case to be a family of two adults and two children, using the card once every six to eight weeks over distances of 200 to 250 miles.

Of 1,300,000 journeys under the scheme, 33 per cent would have been by train anyway; but 28 per cent of travellers would not have made the journey at all, 24 per cent would have gone by car, and 12 per cent by coach.

## 17% fares rise sought by British Caledonian

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

In an effort to keep pace with rising operational costs, British Caledonian applied yesterday to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to increase its domestic fares by 17 per cent.

The increases would take effect from April 1 and would make the single fare between London and Glasgow or Edinburgh £49, compared with £42 at present. British Caledonian is also applying for an off-peak single fare between London and Edinburgh of £20.

Earlier this week the Civil Aviation Authority received applications from most British airlines for increases in domestic fares averaging 12.5 per cent. The applications cited rising costs, particularly fuel and airfare charges.

British Airways asked for the single fare between London and Belfast to be raised from £38 to £43, and for that between London and Manchester to go up from £27 to £33.

## Green beacons on doctors' cars in an emergency

By Our Motoring Correspondent

Doctors will be able to use flashing or rotating green beacons on their cars when answering emergency calls under regulations laid before Parliament yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Minister of Transport. The regulations will come into operation on February 28.

Mr Fowler said yesterday: "By making doctors' cars more easily recognizable we will be helping them to reach emergency cases more quickly. I hope motorists will be as responsive to the flashing green beacon as they are to the traditional blue flashing light."

Doctors' cars using green beacons will not be given high speed priority or any legal immunity from observing either speed limits or traffic signals. The regulations will also allow blue beacons on vehicles carrying human tissues for transplanting or similar purposes and amber beacons on vehicles owned by the Board of Customs and Excise and used for testing fuels.

## Refitting nuclear submarine starts

Refitting Swiftsure, the nuclear submarine, will begin in six weeks after a 12-month delay at Devonport naval base over piecework rates paid shift hours.

Preliminary work will start as the submarine lies in dock. The refit is expected to be completed by the spring of 1982.

## PUBLIC AUCTION at SHORT NOTICE AIRFREIGHT WAREHOUSE HEATHROW AIRPORT Balance of a late Arrival Contracted Order HIGH QUALITY VALUABLE PERSIAN AND AFGHAN CARPETS AND FINE HANDMADE RUGS OF OTHER ORIGINS

Ordered in 1979 for contracted delivery November 1979 through Brokers for London Importers Seasonal Sale. Due to internal strife in Iran and intermittent closure of Teheran Customs the bales of Persian rugs could not be moved on contracted dates and were finally airfreighted to Amsterdam to join other bales for transhipment London.

## AUCTION AT THE WAREHOUSE OF AIRFREIGHT AGENTS

LEP AIR LTD. Northumberland Close, Stanwell, Staines Middx. (Turn off Great West Road (A30) into Stanwell Road (follow signs) Northumberland Close is situated off Stanwell Road.) Auction Five Bales - Piece by Piece.

SUNDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 11.00 a.m./VIEW 10.00 a.m. TERMS: CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUES Douglas Jackson, Hammond & Co, Adjusters.

## Whitelaw reply on abductor of girls

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, replied yesterday to a call by a judge for an investigation into why the Home Office ignored a probation officer's report that a man should be returned to jail four months before he abducted two young girls.

Judge Meurig Evans said at Mold Crown Court, Clwyd, on Monday that he echoed the probation officer's thoughts that John Vincent Subrenski, aged 64, father of five children, should not be released "as long as his health and strength lasts".

Mr Whitelaw agreed yesterday in a written answer to a parliamentary question by Sir Anthony Meyer, Conservative MP for Wokingham, that in May, 1979, Mr Subrenski's supervising officer reported that his attitude to supervision had been unsatisfactory and suggested that his licence should be revoked, if only for a limited period, to impress on him the need to comply fully with his obligations under the supervision conditions of his licence.

"There was no suggestion of immediate danger to other persons requiring emergency action", Mr Whitelaw said.

Mr Subrenski was convicted in 1957 for indecently assaulting a girl aged eight and raping another aged nine, and was sentenced to life imprisonment. In April, 1976, the Parole Board's recommendation that he should be released was accepted. Mr Subrenski was released on April 29, 1977.

The court at Mold was told that the two girls, aged seven and eight, were saved from permanent harm by a young couple who followed Mr Subrenski's car and told the police. He was jailed for four years.

Mr Whitelaw said yesterday that, after receiving the supervising officer's report, the case was considered by a panel of the Parole Board on June 22.

The panel decided that they were not satisfied that recall was justified but that Mr Subrenski should be warned that if he continued to behave in the same way he could expect his licence to be revoked. The Home Secretary was under the 1967 Act bound by that decision.

On September 7 the Home Office was informed that Mr Subrenski had been charged with abducting two small girls and had been remanded in custody until the following day. His licence was immediately revoked.

Mr Whitelaw said: "Mr Subrenski will continue to be detained under his life sentence for as long as is judged to be necessary. This will be until the Home Secretary of the day is satisfied as it is reasonably possible that he no longer presents a risk to children."

At the same time the Board of Airline Representatives in the United Kingdom (Baruk) has lodged a formal protest with the Department of Trade on the subject. Baruk said: "The airlines are aghast at the new level for the security levy."

In 1977, the airlines were responsible for undertaking security services with an associated cost of 20p per departing passenger, one eighth of the level now proposed.

Mr Whitelaw said: "Mr Subrenski will continue to be detained under his life sentence for as long as is judged to be necessary. This will be until the Home Secretary of the day is satisfied as it is reasonably possible that he no longer presents a risk to children."

Mr Field wrote to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for

Health and Social Security.

dealing with code members than non-members.

He was commenting on a survey by his office of British garages in which the performance of 216 code members was compared with that of 84 non-code members. The only significant improvement since 1977 was that more used-car dealers were making efforts to verify a vehicle's mileage.

The Motor Agents' Association, which supports the code, said yesterday that where there was evidence that members had failed to observe the code it would continue to do all in its power to bring them into line.

## Garage complaints rise

By Peter Waymark

Motoring Correspondent

Complaints about new and used cars have increased steadily over the past two years despite the motor industry Code of Practice, according to the Office of Fair Trading.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of fair trading, said yesterday: "Overall there appears to have been little significant improvement in the code's operation in the past two years."

Mr Borrie added that there was evidence that consumers were likely to be better off

## Dublin director accused of kidnapping

Colin Patrick McIvor, aged 50, managing director of a weaving firm was remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Stockport, Greater Manchester, yesterday accused of kidnapping Lady Sugden, the wife of the chief executive of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Mr McIvor, of Upper Ely Place, Dublin, was accused of unlawfully stealing and carrying away Lady Sugden against her will.

He faces a further charge of demanding £50,000 with menaces from Sir Arthur Sugden, aged 61, who lives with his wife at Old Wool Lane, Cheetham Hill, near Stockport.

## Independent television in shift to factual material

By Kenneth Gossling

A third of ITV's output and in 1978-79 more than 38 per cent of an average company's transmission on 39 hours a week was represented by news, current affairs, documentaries, arts, religion, education and children's informative programmes.

Narrative programmes—drama, films—also television and feature films—also accounted for about a third of the output.

The rest was made up of entertainment and music (20 per cent) and sport (10 per cent).

The authority says that of more than 100 hours of programmes each week nearly half emanate from the five network companies, 10 hours are networked by the 10 regional companies, just over eight hours are purely local, and seven hours are news material from independent Television News. Sources outside the companies provided about 26 hours of programmes.

Television & Radio 1980. Independent Television. Public Relations, 247 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0AU

Programmes of fact and information account for more than

30 per cent of the total.

Two other changes are noted: Less acquired material is being shown—in particular there are fewer programmes from the United States and slightly fewer feature films; and the source of ITV's own production is widening and more programmes from the larger "regional" companies are being seen in other parts of the country.

Programmes of fact and information account for more than

30 per cent of the total.

Two senior officials of the

Church of Scientology at East Grinstead, Sussex, were refused leave yesterday to appeal to the House of Lords against orders for their extradition to the United States to face burglary charges.

The United States Govern-

ment alleges that scientologists in the United States, acting on

instructions from Mrs Jane

Kember and Mr. Morris

Budlong, of East Grinstead, broke

into public premises and taking

away photo-copying paper worth

£100 or less. What the United

States Government was con-

cerned about was the informa-

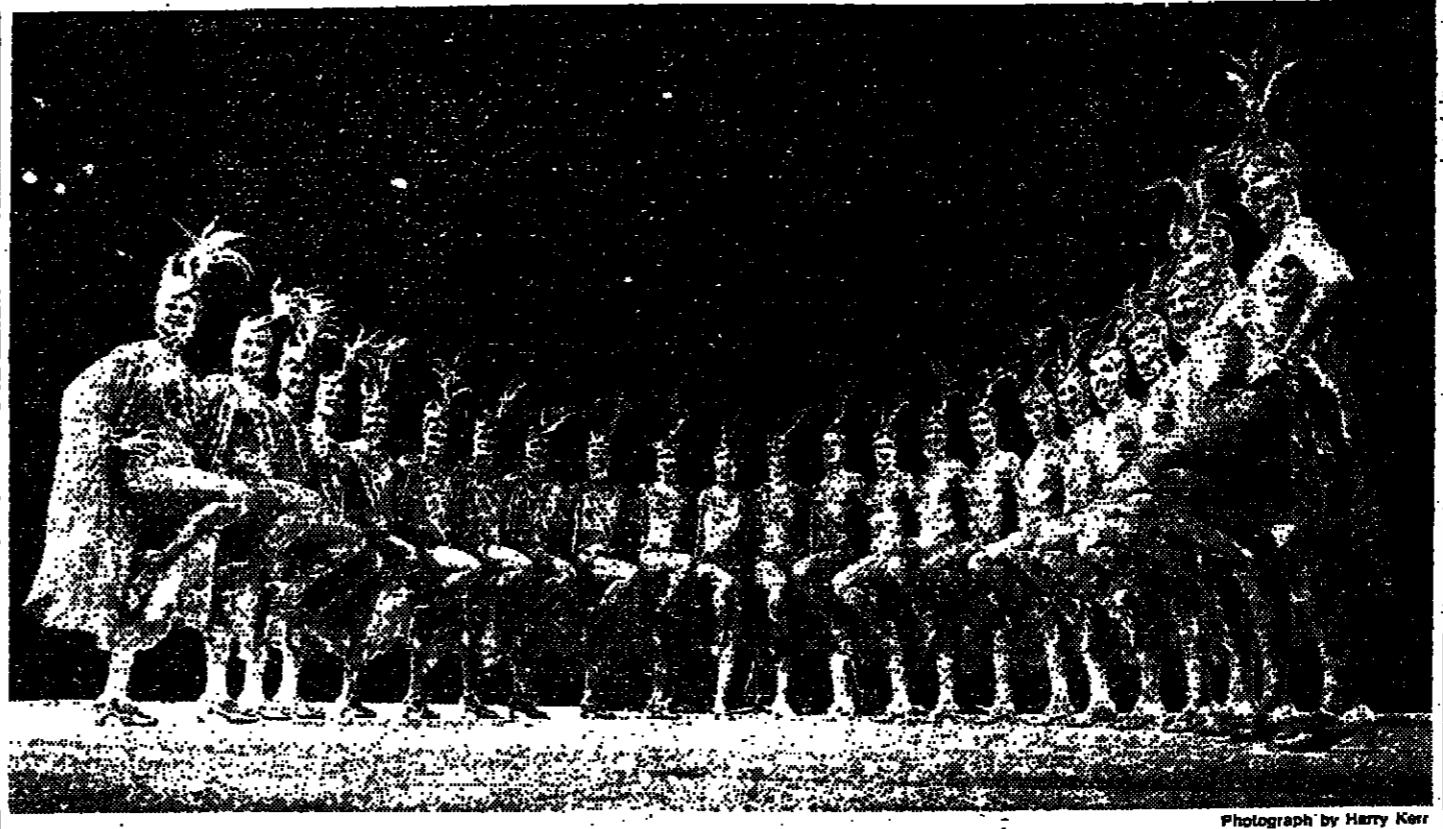
tion which the photocopying

paper had on it, internal, secret

information about the Church

of Scientology and its adherents.

Mrs Kember, a British sub-



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Well-tuned machine: Anachronistic in their wholeness, the Rockettes of Radio City, New York, danced their energetic way into the affections of Londoners yesterday (Trevor Fishlock writes). They are cheerful, long-legged ladies who earn their living by dressing in exiguous iridescent costumes.

shiny stockings and silvery shoes (as well as shiny feathers in their caps) and who wheel their way around the stage of the Radio City Music Hall in New York, kicking up their legs in unison. They have been doing this for half a century and have become an American institution. Connoisseurs of

the high-kicking art regard them as entirely non-erotic: the Rockettes are seen as a well-tuned machine, a relic of an age of stricter mores. Yesterday they were giving their high-stepping all at the Albert Hall with the aim of persuading more Britons to visit New York.

From Our Correspondent

## £225,000 fall award for scaffolder

From Our Correspondent

An award for injuries said

to be a record was agreed at

Crown Court yesterday when a settlement of £225,000 was announced in favour of Mr John Yates Priestley, aged 37, a scaffolder, of Cardiff.

Mr Priestley, father of three

children, living with his parents in Croyde Avenue, Ilfracombe, appeared in court in a wheelchair.

He is a quadriplegic after having sustained multiple injuries, including a fractured spine, in a fall while working on a bridge on the A33 road two years ago.

Mr Priestley, an experienced and highly paid scaffolder, who is now divorced, claimed damages against Contract Materials Company, his former employers.

Archbishop elected, page 16

## More young people confirmed

By Clifford Longley

Religious Affairs Correspondent

Indications of a gradual change in fortune for the Church of England are contained in the latest set of church statistics, published today, which appear to show a reversal of the long-term trend towards contraction. The latest figures refer to 1978, but church statisticians feel that the general pattern has been sus-

tained since 1976.

The difficulty of assessing

religious statistics is shown,

however, by the Anglican

ordination figures for 1973 and 1974. Rises in those years were

prematurely hailed as the be-

ginning of a more optimistic

trend, but that was reversed in

the two subsequent years. The

general pattern, as far as it

can be detected at the begin-

ning of 1980, gives grounds for

a more confident optimism

in 1973, for all the

churches.

The Church of England still

has considerable difficulties in

maintaining itself, however,

and the statistics show an im-

balance in the age structure of

the ministry.

According to a report in July,

1979, there were 8,128 full-time

parochial clergy under 50 and

2,439 over 60. That statistical

"bulge" of elderly clergymen

will be retiring in the next

decade at a rate far in excess of

the likely rate of recruitment

## WEST EUROPE

### Farm price proposals will put up British food costs by £150m

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Feb 7

An increase in the minimum prices guaranteed to the EEC's eight million farmers of between 1.5 and 3.5 per cent for the 1980-81 marketing year was announced here today by Mr Finn O'Farrell Gundelach, the Commissioner for Agriculture. It is estimated that this would put up consumer prices by 0.1 per cent and food prices in the shops by 0.8 per cent. This suggests an increase of about £150m in consumer expenditure on food in Britain.

The lowest increases are reserved for milk and sugar, the two products in biggest surplus in the Community. A 1.5 per cent rise is also proposed for beef but this is partly offset by a new subsidy to encourage specialized beef production.

Mr Gundelach made clear that no price rises could be justified at all for milk and sugar unless these increases were coupled with related measures to curb over-production in these two sectors, which consume more than half of all agricultural expenditure.

"These proposals form a whole," Mr Gundelach declared. "If one element is rejected, then we would have to reconsider the whole package." However, he declined to give an assurance that the Commission would withdraw its attack on the common agricultural policy if member-states did not accept his view.

In addition to an existing 1.5 per cent tax on milk producers, Mr Gundelach has proposed a general tax of more than 80 per cent on all milk deliveries to dairies in excess of 99 per cent of last year's level.

In effect, this means that dairies would have to meet the full cost of disposing of this excess so that increased production would be made uneconomic. If agreed, it would be the most step ever taken by the EEC to restrain dairy production.

There will be fierce opposition from many member-states, and not least from Britain. Despite the British desire to see agricultural surpluses

curbed, the Government thinks Mr Gundelach's proposals could penalize Britain's relatively efficient dairy production.

Another shock for Mr Peter Walker, the Agricultural Minister, is that Mr Gundelach's proposals do not envisage a renewal of Britain's wholly EEC-financed consumer subsidy on butter. At present this keeps the share of butter at 12p to 13p a lb below what it would otherwise be and is worth some £65m to the Exchequer.

Mr Gundelach said that it would be difficult to justify this subsidy in the current climate of budgetary stringency.

In the sugar section, where production exceeds consumption, Mr Gundelach proposes to reduce the amounts of sugar production covered by price guarantees by some 7 per cent below the last production levels attained in the last two years.

A fierce battle between member-states over the price proposals now lies ahead. Mr Walker has said that he does not think there should be any price increase at all for products in chronic surplus such as milk and sugar. But the French have made clear that if Britain wants any help in reducing its contribution to the EEC budget it will have to soft-pedal its attack on the common agricultural policy.

Proposals attacked: The Commission's proposals were attacked as "harsh and discriminatory" by Mr Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union.

The increase in farm support prices averaged about 2.5 per cent, he said, and "is totally inadequate when set against escalating British input costs and the severe deterioration in farm income".

The NFU firmly supported the request by Cope, the EEC farmers' organization, for a 7.5 per cent increase. "This is one of the essential measures that has to be taken if the drop in British real farm income, 25 per cent over the past two years, is to be arrested."



Señor Cájal, assisted by his wife, enters the Red Cross hospital in Madrid.

From Harry Debelsius  
Madrid, Feb 7

The only living survivor of the holocaust at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala, the Ambassador Señor Maximo Cájal, arrived here today, a week after the police assault on the embassy ended in tragedy.

Señor Cájal, his hands bandaged and his voice showing evidence of strain, said that

apart from burns he was in His fears seemed justified good health.

The ambassador left a Guatemala City hospital last Friday shortly after the only other survivor, one of the farm workers who had occupied the embassy assault and fire, was abducted from the same hospital. Señor Cájal then went to the United States Embassy in San Salvador which began on Tuesday continued after the authorities freed eight of the 16 prisoners whose release was demanded.

His

when the bullet-riddled body of

the other survivor, one of the

farm workers who had occupied

the embassy assault and fire,

was dumped on

the university campus

Meanwhile, the occupation of

the Spanish embassy in San

Salvador which began on Tues-

day continued after the autho-

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## OVERSEAS

# Schlesinger call for redeployment of US forces into Indian Ocean and higher Nato defence spending

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Feb 7

Mr James Schlesinger, the former United States Defence Secretary, today called for a redeployment of American forces into the Indian Ocean and substantial increases in defence spending by Nato members to counteract the Soviet intervention of Afghanistan.

He called on West Germany to increase the number of its troops and tanks. West Germany's tank inventory, he said, was "scarcely higher than that of a Middle Eastern country".

Mr Schlesinger, a Republican, has had talks here with government and opposition politicians about the international situation. He told a press conference that although he was here as a private citizen his journey was "known to various members of the Administration".

He said he had been putting more bluntly suggestions which had been raised to the Germans indirectly by people in office.

A Defence Ministry spokesman declined to comment on his remarks. Officials pointed out, however, that since West Germany was unlikely to reach the desired target of 3 per cent increase in defence spending this year, its spending on equipment had risen by 7

per cent and other investments by 31 per cent. It had 4,000 tanks and would soon have 4,700 mostly advanced ones.

Mr Schlesinger said that steps such as a boycott of the Moscow Olympics and the grain embargo were "satisfying but strategically marginal". The balance of power in the Gulf must be redressed in the West's favour. The Atlantic alliance would eventually have to be reshaped as well. He did not explain how this should be done.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a warning that we should heed, which came too soon", he said.

Soviet fleet move: A large force of Soviet warships is concentrating in the South China Sea in a move linked with the Afghan crisis.

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The balance of power in the Gulf must be redressed in the West's favour. The Atlantic alliance would eventually have to be reshaped as well. He did not explain how this should be done.

The United States Seventh Fleet is concentrated in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas because of the Afghan crisis and its presence in the western Pacific is drastically reduced.

Admiral Robert Long, the United States Pacific commander, told the Senate armed services committee in Washington yesterday that American forces in the region were spread too thinly to cover trouble spots. He called for more aircraft carriers, bases and other facilities to boost the American presence in Asia.

The Western military sources have said the United States fleet, which projects American power from Hawaii to the east coast of Africa, now had 27 ships in the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. —Reuter.

Detente—two views, page 14

Leading article, page 15

## Detente not indivisible, Tass says

Continued from page 1  
Tokyo, Feb 7

The position of the Japanese Government regarding the approach from the United States for a seven-nation foreign ministers' conference on economic sanctions against the Soviet Union is "fluid", according to government sources.

Moscow immediately blamed America for exerting pressure on its Nato allies. Britain, the habitual villain, was accused of acting as Washington's go-between.

Paris and Bonn had concurred in their assessments of the events in Afghanistan. Iniesta remarked last night, "so as not to irritate their senior Atlantic partner".

Tass said the "distorted interpretation" of the events was viewed from an American position and the French and German governments were using double standards; for the sake of solidarity with the Americans they had ignored the undeclared war on Afghanistan waged by their allies—presumably Britain and America.

Tass challenged President Carter's assertion that detente was indivisible. This, the agency said, assumed that the Russians should not support national liberation movements and should not react to any crises provoked by the West, even when Soviet security was threatened.

The Russians would not agree to this, and Tass repeated the Soviet view that detente did not imply an end to the world class struggle.

"While categorically rejecting the 'export of revolution' our country remains loyal to proletarian internationalism and class solidarity."

Tass said that in spite of class struggles that had gone on in Latin America or Africa, detente had developed, especially in Europe.

The Americans, the agency asserted, had wanted to "drown the Afghan revolution in blood". The Russians could not remain impartial observers. But, Tass said, "the events in Afghanistan can and must not to any degree jeopardize the destinies of detente in Europe".

In Moscow's view France and West Germany no longer appear to agree with such a proposition.

Tass said detente was indivisible only in the sense that politicians in the West could not hypocritically call for a continuation of the policy and at the same time express solidarity with the United States policy of frustrating it, boycotting the Olympic Games and curtailing contacts with the Soviet Union.

## Doubts in Japan over Soviet sanctions

From Our Correspondent

Tokyo, Feb 7

Observers in Tokyo have expressed some doubts on the "concrete achievements" of such a conference if it were held at all. They pointed out that the American proposed anti-Russian economic measures would affect each country according to its different interests.

They said that the "extent of impact" of such sanctions on Japan, which has "deep interests" in developments of industrial resources (such as oil, natural gas, coal and lumber) in the Far East of Russia, would be "very substantial".

Tokyo and Moscow have cooperated, largely on Japan's initiatives, on development programmes of such resources which involve monetary commitments amounting to \$1,500m.

They are designed to provide in the future a substantial portion of Japan's energy supplies which today depend on imports of up to 80 per cent of its industrial output. Observers have long pointed out that Japan needs Soviet resources more than the Soviet Union needs high-technology or money from Japan.

## Tanzania security men on torture charges

who were also naked. Suspects were also forced to drink "bitter liquid".

One witness, in a statement, alleged that after release from prison he had been able to have sexual relations only once, with difficulty, because of the torture he had suffered.

Two of the accused men asked for an early trial as they had been held in remand for four years.

The investigation came after a directive by President Nyerere and the resignation of the speaker and Mr Simeone, the Minister of State, in the President's office. Mr Ah Hassan Mwinyi, the Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Peter Abdalla Kissoon, the Mwanza Regional Commissioner, and Mr Marko Mabanya, the Shinyanga Regional Commissioner, who accepted ultimate responsibility for the misconduct by some police and security men—Agence France Presse.

## Firemen die in blaze

Mexico City, Feb 7.—Ten firemen were feared killed when a wall collapsed on them during a fire at an electronics equipment factory here.

### Attacker executed

Peking, Feb 7.—A man who stabbed a court investigator 21 times and disabled him for life was executed in China's northernmost province of Heilongjiang.

## Arab League requested to meet on Tunisian rising

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Feb 7

Tunisia and Libya have asked for an urgent meeting of the Arab League because of last week's rising in the Tunisian mining town of Gafsa. The Libyans have also called for meetings of the Organization of African Unity, the Islamic Conference and the Organization of non-Aligned Countries to examine "the French invasion".

M Charles Malo, the French Ambassador to Libya, returned to Paris today, having been recalled after his embassy was sacked on Monday. Relations between the two countries are at their lowest ebb, and Tripoli radio has broadcast claims that the Sahara will become another Dien Bien Phu for France "with the bodies of thousands of soldiers exposed to the ravens and vultures".

Tunisia, which was given "resin air transport assistance" when about 300 guerrillas attacked Gafsa, has demanded the meeting of the Arab League to protest at "the aggression perpetrated at the instigation of the Libyan regime".

The signs are that Tunisia has approached the league after making discreet sound

## FBI conduct of corruption inquiry angers Arabs

From Michael Leepson

New York, Feb 7

Arabs in America are indignant at the way the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted its much publicized investigation into congressional corruption. They complain bitterly that for FBI agents to impersonate Arab potentates douting off bribes amounted to grossly unfair racial stereotyping.

Dr M. T. Mehdi, the Chairman of the American-Arab Relations Committee in New York, sent a telegram to Mr Benjamin Civiletti, the Attorney-General, saying the affair amounted to "a character assassination of the Arabs" and "defamatory act which perpetuates the traditional prejudicial view of Arabs in the United States".

He believes that the Arabs are the only ethnic group in America which now has to suffer such prejudice. Why, he asks, did the agents not impersonate "an oil-rich Venezuelan, a Nigerian or an Israeli businessman" instead of "a rich, filthy, corrupt Arab".

He said: "It is time Americans realized that Arabs are important political figures and the future of the United States is linked to the Arab countries. To destroy this relationship

## Olympics face worst crisis since 1894

From John Hennessy  
Lake Placid, Feb 7

Lord Killanin, the President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday described the crisis facing the Olympic movement as the most critical since it was revived by Baron de Coubertin in 1894.

He had just arrived here in preparation for the Winter Games to be opened next Wednesday, and was of a mind to play it dead but to everything thrown at him. But there was no doubtting the seriousness either of his mood or of his position.

Without referring specifically to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, or the United States-led call for retaliation through sport, he said that Olympic principles faced grave issues.

He was, he said, fully sensitive to the feelings of the United States National Olympic Committee, but he was also "sensitive to what can and cannot be done by the IOC".

He did not wish to prejudice what IOC members may decide when they meet in session here from Monday to Tuesday but he maintained it was "unthinkable, morally and legally, to bow to government pressure by moving the games. We should not allow ourselves to be dictated by governments on where we should go".

Meanwhile, the problem of Taiwan refuses to go away. Refusing to yield to IOC instructions to change their provisional accreditation papers, a number of Taiwanese have been refused entry to the Olympic Village.

They refused to give up. The IOC is now anxiously awaiting a ruling from the court at Plattsburg near by on an application from a Taiwanese skier, Liang Ren-gui, aged 30, for an injunction for the Lake Placid games to be deferred pending a judgment on his claim of discrimination.

That is how he regards, for legal purposes at least, the IOC ruling that he should appear under the banner of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee rather than that of the Republic of China Olympic Committee. Greek offer: Lord Killanin has said in a letter to Mr Karanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, that the right time for the recommendation of a permanent site for the Olympic Games, which the IOC would organize in October 1981.

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## American money pours into new Israel bases

From Christopher Walker  
Ovda, Negev, Feb 7

It is one of the great frontiers of the Middle East peace process that, in order to try to prevent more fighting, vast sums of money and huge resources of human energy are being devoted to rebuilding the most sophisticated instruments of war.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in this once-empty corner of the Negev Desert where a team of 1,000 Arab labourers are transforming 6,000 acres of sand and rock into a new Israeli air base which will cost the American Government more than \$450m (about £185m).

Under the Camp David agreement, the two main Israeli fighter bases in the occupied Sinai are to be released in the Negev, a process to be completed by March 1982. The new airfield is only 20 miles from the nearest base at Ramon to the south.

"What is ruling here is emotion, not logic," said Brigadier-General Moshe Bar-Tov, the Israeli joint commander. "Of course, it would have been much easier to leave things where they are. But we are sincerely hoping for peace with Egypt and all our Arab neighbours."

Farther to the north at Ramon, a similar exercise is being carried out with the aid of labour imported from Portugal. Both projects are under joint Israeli-American supervision and will cost together just over \$1,000m, four-fifths of which is being contributed by grants from America.

As a result of the need to avoid adding to Israeli inflation, now running at more than 100 per cent, and the desire

of the Americans to use their own companies, the involvement of Israeli labour is minimal.

At Ovda, where work began last October, the new runways are little more than channels in the sand and work has only just begun on the bunkers, which

## Bolshoi defections bring to light long-running quarrel over 'stiflingly conservative' repertoire

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Feb 7

Shortly after the defection of Alexander Godunov, the Bolshoi ballet star, and two fellow dancers last summer, a joke went around Moscow: "The Bolshoi company went to America; the Maly returned." The two words, both names of Moscow theatres, mean big and small.

But with the defection yesterday of two more members of the company, including one of the world's most distinguished ballet teachers, the joke has gone sour. The 24-year-old Bolshoi, the cultural jewel of the Soviet Union, seems to be tearing itself apart.

Sulamith Messerer, the 71-year-old former dancer star, and her 31-year-old son, Michael, said as they left for the United States that they lacked artistic freedom in the Soviet Union and deserved of life there.

But the dictatorship of Sulamith Messerer, who once danced for Stalin, found intolerable was not that of the Soviet Government or its functionaries.

It was the dictatorship of man who was born at the centre of the bitter feuds that have brought the company to the verge of collapse. Yuri Grigorovich, the brilliant, austere, autocratic chief choreographer and artistic director of the Bolshoi.

Things have been festering at the Bolshoi for several years as criticisms of the pale 53-year-old director mounted. They ranged from accusations of favouritism and petty personal blacklisting of promising dancers he disliked to the more fundamental ones that Mr Grigorovich, in spite of his many triumphs over the past 14 years, was stifling the Bolshoi with a conservative repertoire, a lack of innovation and a squandering of the company's formidable talents.

Mr Grigorovich's latest staging of Romeo and Juliet evoked bitter criticism—eschewed by those who saw it in the West. Five leading Bolshoi dancers, headed by Maya Plisetskaya, the aging and still influential prima ballerina, demanded that the old version should be retained.

Mrs Plisetskaya has refused to dance in any of Mr Grigorovich's productions for the past four years. And on a recent overseas tour many of the company's best dancers would not accompany Mr Grigorovich.

But after the defections last summer, the first in the Bolshoi's history (though some leading dancers have left the Kirov in Leningrad), the quarrel broke out into the open.

Ranged against Mr Grigorovich were Miss Plisetskaya; a leading male dancer, Vladimir Vasiliev, and his wife, Yekaterina Maximova, also a star; Marius Liepa, the magnificent Latvian actor-dancer whose performances in Khatshaturian's Spartacus, are unrivaled; and Mikhail Lavrovsky, a male lead



Yuri Grigorovich: At centre of a feud at the Bolshoi.

and son of Mr Grigorovich's predecessor.

The defections shook the Soviet Government as well as the public, especially as the detention of Mr Godunov's wife, Lyudmila Vlasova, on board an aircraft at Kennedy Airport developed into a serious political crisis between the Soviet Union and America.

Mr Pyotr Demichev, the Soviet Minister of Culture, was ordered by the Politburo to sort things out. He appointed Mr Yury Barabash, his deputy, to take charge, and on October 4 a fateful meeting was held in the Bolshoi Theatre, where Mr Grigorovich, recovering from a stomach illness, faced his critics.

The atmosphere was one of unprecedented tension and hostility. The anti-Grigorovich faction, represented by only Miss Plisetskaya, was joined, significantly, by members of the famous Messerer family. The veteran choreographer, teacher and former dancer Asaf Messerer, now 76 and mother of Sulamith, criticized the stale repertoire and called for other choreographers besides Mr Grigorovich.

Mr Grigorovich denied there was any split in the company and virtually threatened to force his opponents to retire. Miss Plisetskaya, a piece of America, wants to come home. The Supreme Soviet itself is said to be considering this request. If he did return, in a public display of disillusion, the propaganda coup would be immense. But if he returned without any sanctions, the precedent for other would-be defectors would be disastrous.

In one way the present political crisis between the Soviet Union and the West has made it easier to cut back on foreign tours without seeming to punish the Bolshoi particularly. But the Soviet authorities are as concerned to bring peace to the mighty company to ensure its artistic survival and resilience as to stop even more members slipping away overseas.

Many people expected after the defections last year that Mr Grigorovich would be dismissed. But he has done much for the Bolshoi. A former dancer and

ballet master at the Leningrad Kirov, he started the much acclaimed version of *Swan Lake* in 1968, and has given the conservative Moscow public the works it has wanted to see.

But the Bolshoi is a demoralized company now. The programme changes frequently at the last minute. Neither the dancers nor the public know from day to day which cast will perform. Mr Grigorovich can still dance and when sometimes performances are extraordinary poor. Last night, for example, two of the leading dancers failed to appear in a performance at the vast Palace of Congress in the Kremlin—the alternative site of the ornate gilt and plush theatre which is the company's home. Whether they had any knowledge of the defections or not, their performance was so lackluster that a male lead nearly dropped one ballerina and one ballerina almost toppled over.

Foreign tours have already been cut back, and the security vetting of all those chosen to go abroad is intense. A number of leading dancers have been turned down. And because a dozen dancers were refused permission to go to Japan for the present tour, Vladimir Vasiliev and Yekaterina Maximova, who were to have led the 90-strong troupe, refused to go.

To the Russians, intensely proud of their world-famous ballet, these defections are shameful, to the authorities they are more than that—they are high treason, for which the maximum penalty is death and the minimum 10 years' imprisonment.

Nevertheless, the authorities realize that the Bolshoi defections are not an immediate threat, because the American offered "mountains of gold and a sea of whisky". And they are in a quandary what to do about the well-substantiated report that Mr Godunov, tempestuous and unhappy in America, wants to come home.

The leaders said that 1,000 Vietnamese, both soldiers and civilians, had defected to them in the past five months. "The Vietnamese come to us, surrender their weapons and tell us they don't want to fight any more," they said.

Three Vietnamese arrived in the camp four days ago after a journey by lorry from the Vietnamese border.

Mr Phan Van Sam, who said he was 50, explained that he had decided to leave Phnom Penh with his 27-year-old daughter because, the authorities were trying to force him to serve again in the Army.

Miss Trinh Thru Huong, aged 21, said she wanted to join her father in California, where he worked for a television production company.

## Vietnamese troops move towards Thai border

From Neil Kelly  
Camp Reahou, Kampuchea, Feb 7

Vietnamese soldiers are now patrolling to within a mile of the Thai border as military activity increases in western Kampuchea.

Two sporadic shells fell on this camp of about 100,000. Free Khmers last week killed a man and a woman and wounded a woman. Camp leaders said today the mortar had been fired from about a mile away.

They also said three groups of Vietnamese troops each numbering 500 or 600 were converging on the camp from the north-east, the east and the south-east.

Speaking for myself, in 30 years of touring Australia with the Ashes team, I have been well won over, regardless of the unsuitability of the itinerary and the frequently disastrous behaviour of the Australian crowds.

Following the inflammatory remarks of Ray Steele, treasurer of the Australian board, who launched the tour, regarding the ECB's refusal to put the Ashes team in the Australian capital to keep the one-day cricket as unaffected as possible, Bresnan became a scapegoat. Being the philosopher he is, I think, up to the task.

Speaking for myself, in 30 years

## SPORT

### Cricket

## England extras in a TV show

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Melbourne, Feb 7

The England cricketers will leave here tomorrow evening for Bombay with mixed feelings. While pleased to be heading for home, they are disappointed not to be able to bring justice in their Test series against Australia. Their relative success in the one-day competition, in which they reached the finals ahead of Australia, is some compensation, but

choose Gooch for the first Test match; Botham should have made more runs. But the team has been beaten by the Australians.

They all played some good cricket. Gooch was singled out by Bresnan as the best player of the tour. He applied himself to the game. It is a pity that the same cannot, as yet, be said of Gower.

When the side went to Western Australia, Gooch was the best man in the second week of December. England were on top of the world.

It was to help out an old friend, namely the Australian Cricket Board, that England had come to Australia. It had been made the Ashes tour, but the Ashes were not to be won, while

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## SPORT

## Rugby Union

## Wales change neither team nor hopes for Twickenham 'decider'

By Peter Walker

It was just conceivable that the Welsh rugby selectors would make a change, or two, for the game against England at Twickenham a week tomorrow, but having seen experimental seed against France which produced an immediate harvest, few would quibble with the carte blanche they have given to the men who comprehensively defeated France on January 19.

Any lingering doubts would have evaporated as soon as the France-England match quoted filtered across to Wales. The Welsh are a bit better when it comes to rugby football and the criticism by an unnamed England team official of Price's technique and tactics in the scrums, and Rives's renewed condemnation of the Llanelli players, had been beaten during the match at the national stadium two weeks ago, virtually guaranteed the naming of an unchanged Welsh team and replacement for what could well be the championship decider at Twickenham.

Do this English team have the right blend to beat Wales? Every season seems to bring England against the equal of anyone else in forward strength. But it is only this season that they seem to have tattered on an extra dimension behind the scrum. The reasons for England's success in Paris, and for the French capital for 15 years—have been well documented and gloomily analysed, yet in Wales the English performance has paradoxically heightened the expectation of another Welsh last stand where one has to go back to 1974 to find their last.

Respected critics like John Dawes and Carwyn James came back from Paris des Princes privately and, in James's case, publicly convinced that although there would be precious little between the two sets of forwards, England were bereft of ideas and flair behind the scrum. The other factor

which has bred quiet optimism is the disappearance of all the pre-season uncertainty which existed over the Welsh side, who have seen half their backbone removed in the past two seasons.

Against France the novices' reply was emphatic and exciting, producing a brand of flowing football which despite international success had been in decline since 1971.

There remained minor doubts over the No. 8 position where Blyth had difficulty in absorbing all that was going on around him against France, but Culimell, whom he replaced, could hardly have endeared himself to the selectors by withdrawing from the French team without playing. All the same, immediately afterwards play for Llanelli in an important cup match. Even so Wales are not so masochistic that they would have left him out of the Twickenham game for this alone.

The selectors must have felt that their original team under the coach, Jim Lloyd, deserved more than anyone else deserved hope and deserved to be kept together.

Realistically, given even 40 per cent of the ball at Twickenham, Wales should defeat England, and quite comfortably, too, for the Welsh team is in a better position behind the scrum.

At full back, Blyth will be the sole survivor from the last Welsh team to lose at Twickenham, and, although his international career has been kept in check by his appointment of P. R. Williams, Blyth's own attacking instincts and long-range place-kicks add an extra flavour to the Welsh mix. Against an England team that for all their virtuous lack of style should be considered to be Wales' home at Twickenham.

Wales: W. R. Blyth (Swansea); H. E. Rees (Neath); D. Richards (Swansea); D. Davies (Cardiff); D. Davies (Abertillery); R. Llewellyn (Cardiff); J. Price (Pontypool); A. J. Davies (Abertillery); R. Llewellyn (Cardiff); J. Price (Pontypool); J. Squire (Pontypool captain).

## Scottish clubs favour a winter break

By Iain Mackenzie

Rugby clubs in Scotland are facing serious financial problems. So many games have been cancelled or postponed because of the weather this season that some clubs are thinking of proposing an official close down during the worst of the winter.

Not one match was played in Scotland last Saturday, after several inches of snow fell on Friday night. A fortnight earlier only the second round of the Scottish championship had been played off first.

This week blizzards left more than a foot of snow on some grounds, although it is hoped that will have gone by the weekend. Several clubs have played only one game at home since the end of November, and a serious situation is taking account for a large part of income. Obviously there are losses at the gate as well.

League matches have to be rearranged, and although this helps treasurers to some extent, there is little joy for fixtures teams squirming in the cold. Games before the end of April. Even the treasurers are not always happy. Many people who attend on Saturday, are unable, or unwilling to turn out on a Monday or Wednesday evening. They can not be blamed. A game which, in January, was of great importance to both clubs, might be almost meaningless in April.

So far this winter has not been so bad as those of 1978 and 1979. Yet many Scottish clubs (and English ones too) especially in the north, have been forced to call off seven or eight games, more than half of which will not now be played.

Disgruntled players and administrators are asking why, when in

much of the area mainly hilly agricultural make it a chore for low temperatures. Games can be off when they are playing happily in Inverness, 200 miles to the north.

There is no reason why rugby should not operate a four month on, two months off system. In Scotland, the case for September-December period could be made for league fixtures and the district championship; March to June for international trials, internationals themselves, friendly matches and sevens.

The figures vary, but on average this season it is costing £500 a week to run a league club in Scotland. This includes the cost of special costs such as kit and balls, travel, entertainment of visitors, ground maintenance and the standard costs, such as light and heat, rates, and telephones.

Richard Aitchison, secretary of Hawick, Scotland's most powerful club, says: "The cost of running a club is seven times what it was in the first and second divisions of the national league—have still another snag to overcome before summer rugby, although I can see a few problems in the way. We are certainly fed up here with cancellations and postponements."

Without exception, the borders look set to lose the bulk of their incomes. In some cases they would struggle to survive without them.

The Scotch Rugby Union has not always had the most cordial of relationships with its southern members and their sevens and the Union would not, doubt, be happy to have the clubs play in their own back yard in April.

Yet, ironically, it is the border clubs who are hardest hit by bad weather, the exposed nature of

## Police player has 40 stitches in face injury

By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent  
England's 2-0 victory over the Republic of Ireland at Wembley in the European Championship on Wednesday was more informative than entertaining. In the end, the record showed that Ron Greenwood's various teams had come through eight qualifying games without defeat and had dropped only one point. They scored at an average of nearer than two goals in a match, however, in modern international football, and indicated that they were to be reckoned with in Italy next June.

He was taken to hospital after being injured just before half time and was kept in overnight before returning home against the advice of doctors. French Police were the match 23-4.

Johnson, an acting inspector and yesterday: "I was injured in a deliberate off-the-ball incident. It could not possibly have been an accident because I was isolated at the time. "My right ear is pretty well shredded and the gash runs down my cheek." For Wednesday's performance was absolute proof that Keegan was the sole safe-saving player in the team had an understandable argument on the night, but it was not an accurate reflection of the present state of England.

Keegan did make the crucial opening in a defensively-minded Irish team and England do not, on his special gifts, and would be sorely let down if he could not appear in Italy. Similarly, the team chosen for Wednesday desperately needed his individuality and goalscoring ability to save them from what could have been a disastrous defeat.

Five club officials were at the match but they do not expect to be asked to make a decision. Norman Chappell, assistant chief constable with the South Wales police, who was in charge of the party, said: "We shall only be discussing the tour as a whole. We don't intend to take any action or make an official complaint."

Matches between the British and French police have a lengthy history. The series was suspended in 1955 and not resumed until 1971.

## Football

## Useful lessons from England's win

By Norman Fox

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In terms of an international revival, this European championship may give England a belief that they can win when it matters, which is not to say that they are any better than Mr Greenwood's assessment of them as the fourth-best qualifying team. Confidence is bred on winning, and even if the victories are against modest opposition, the cumulative effect is still encouraging. Those who claimed that Keegan was not as good as his team-mates in the last match were clearly wrong. The proof that Keegan was the sole safe-saving player in the team had an understandable argument on the night, but it was not an accurate reflection of the present state of England.

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Kevin Keegan: England rely on his special gifts.

whatever encouraging things Mr Greenwood must say to some of the younger players, three of the missing seniors—Brooking, Wilkins and Francis—should not feel that they are under any handicap in that regard. That in itself is a useful lesson.

For those who fear that Mr Greenwood seems unable to make up his mind whether to play 4-3-3 or 4-2-4, the game offered no further comfort; but

in other respects, uncertainties were resolved. Sansom emphasized conclusively that he was the rightful person for the left back position: he was one of the games' successes. The rest of the team, too, played well enough under limited threat, but as a unit the rearranged midfield lacked authority. Robson, in his first full international, was efficient rather than spectacular, and McDermott found himself

left high and dry by Keegan's enormous appetite for work.

Keegan was not only the link between midfield and attack, but the inspiration of both. In the first half he tried to allow Robson to operate in the centre of midfield, but in the second he realized that by running in the defence in the middle of the pitch he could be more damaging. As Johnson's most telling work was done in quick bursts of wide, the penalty area and the wide wings of the pitch, he was not at his best because of the close attention of the diligent Lawrence. Keegan's decision and application became decisive, especially when Johnson was carried off after a collision with the Irish goalkeeper, Peeler.

Liverpool, with their midfield player, Souness, facing a possible suspension when he goes before an FA disciplinary commission next week, had John Wark fit for tomorrow's visit to Norwich. His cut head is not as bad as was first feared. Payton should be fit to play for Fulham against Leicester. Arsenal, however, have doubts about O'Leary, who aggravated an earlier ankle injury, and Dennis Bergkamp's groin problem under treatment has only a 50-50 chance of being fit to face Aston Villa.

Undoubtedly the most frustrating England player was Cunningham, who rarely captured his full potential because of his lack of fitness. His cut head is not as bad as was first feared. The performance of Brady, the Irish captain, who has the ability to do much more than hover in his own half, playing set pieces, was excellent.

John Keegan, the Irish manager, said he thought Brady was a better midfield player than Keegan. His point was easily misinterpreted, and it proved misleading. Brady, who was probably being asked to do his best, was asked to let him go abroad, to seek the natural gifts to justify such a boast, but would be advised to compare his influence and the games' successes. The rest of the team, too, played well enough under limited threat, but as a unit the rearranged midfield lacked authority. Robson, in his first full international, was efficient rather than spectacular, and McDermott found himself

struggling to find cohesion. "The work of a master," as Enzo Bearzot, the Italian manager, said later.

Selling every seat at Wembley, perhaps, even moving to Earls Court and selling the extra 6,000 seats there is a start. Sponsorship is another possible provider of revenue. The next Wembley show on March 4 is sponsored by the City of London, as was Jim Walshe and Highgate's this time last year. The place holds more than 10,000 customers and to sell the very last ticket is quite an achievement. The last time it happened was in June 1977, when Dave (Boy) Green fought Carlos Palomino for the world welterweight title; it almost happened in March the same year when Green met John Stacey.

Heavyweights used to do it—Henry Cooper, for example, but Billy Walker, a former heavyweight and Joe Bugner, who probably sold more tickets during his professional career than any other boxer of recent years, but it has never been done by a flyweight.

The promoter, Micky Duff, considers that this small omission will be put right some time this year, and the next chance will be tampered to London from Korea.

The problem is that Chang Hye Park is very expensive to hire, being supported at home by his own national television company to such an extent that offers have to be made to him for vast sums, even to Korea. It usually raps them.

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Alternative offer: Don King, the promoter, has offered Sugar Ray Leonard, the World Boxing Council welterweight champion, \$250,000 to defend his title against the No. 1 contender, Roberto Duran, of Panama. Three days ago, King, promoter, Bob Arum, offered Duran \$1m for a challenge against Leonard.

King said he had Duran under contract for a bout with the United States title holder. Arum said he had an agreement with Leonard to promote the champion's next defence after his meeting with Dave Green on March 31. Arum set a deadline of February 15 for Leonard to accept his offer, but King did not set a deadline on his offer to Leonard.

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Davis Cup surprise

Calgary, Feb 7.—Peter MacNamara is a surprise inclusion as Australia's No. 2 singles player for the eastern zone Davis Cup final against Japan, starting here tomorrow.

John Marks, 36, has won 22 Davis Cup titles, including 12 in Australia, and has been runner-up in the last three.

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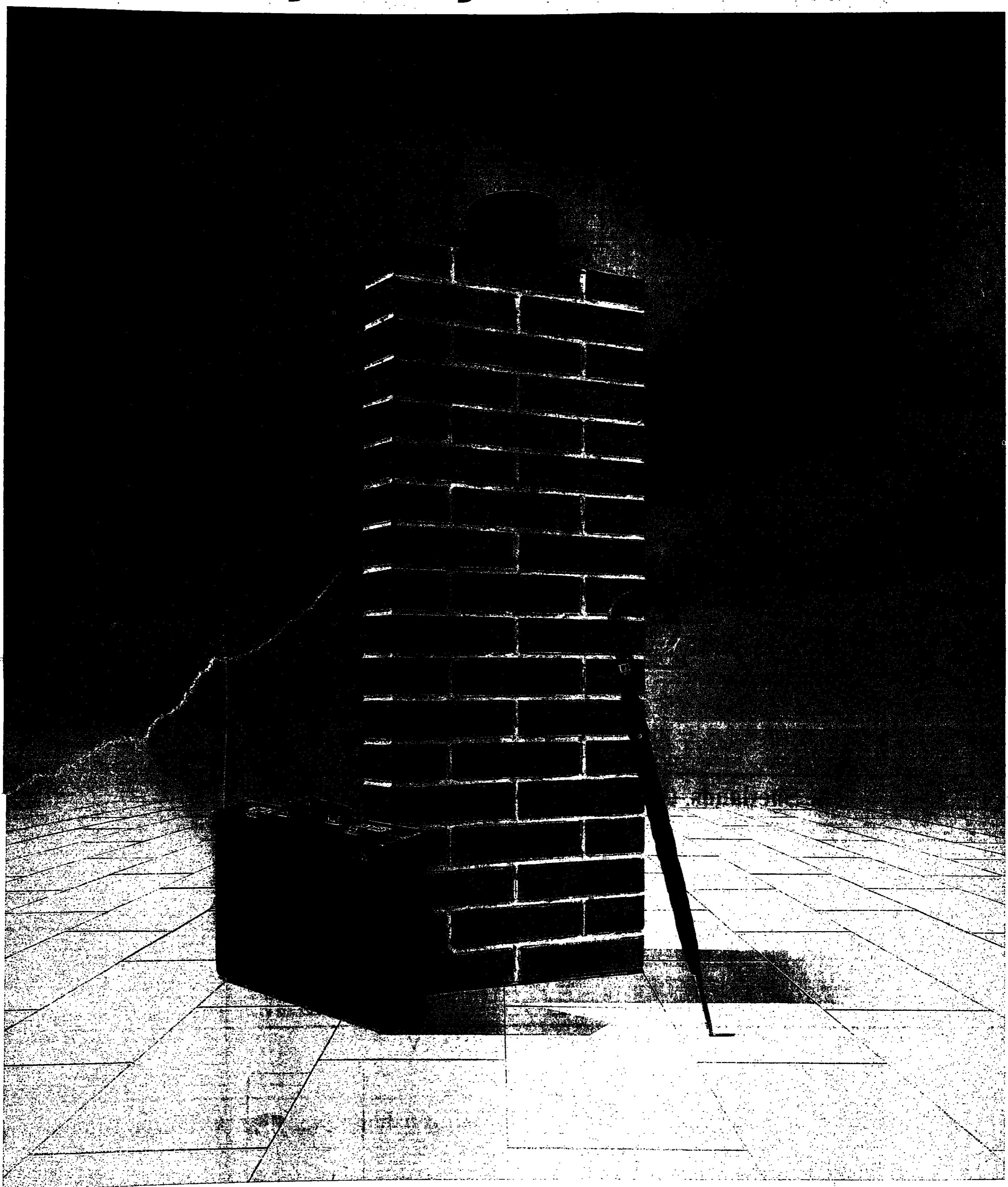
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**COTTESLOE** (NT) small auditorium, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213rd, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312nd, 313rd, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412nd, 413rd, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512nd, 513rd, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 587th, 588th, 589th, 590th, 591st, 592nd, 593rd, 594th, 595th, 596th, 597th, 598th, 599th, 600th, 601st, 602nd, 603rd, 604th, 605th, 606th, 607th, 608th, 609th, 610th, 611st, 612nd, 613rd, 614th, 615th, 616th, 617th, 618th, 619th, 620th, 621st, 622nd, 623rd, 624th, 625th, 626th, 627th, 628th, 629th, 630th, 631st, 632nd, 633rd, 634th, 635th, 636th, 637th, 638th, 639th, 640th, 641st, 642nd, 643rd, 644th, 645th, 646th, 647th, 648th, 649th, 650th, 651st, 652nd, 653rd, 654th, 655th, 656th, 657th, 658th, 659th, 660th, 661st, 662nd, 663rd, 664th, 665th, 666th, 667th, 668th, 669th, 670th, 671st, 672nd, 673rd, 674th, 675th, 676th, 677th, 678th, 679th, 680th, 681st, 682nd, 683rd, 684th, 685th, 686th, 687th, 688th, 689th, 690th, 691st, 692nd, 693rd, 694th, 695th, 696th, 697th, 698th, 699th, 700th, 701st, 702nd, 703rd, 704th, 7

## Limits on power of judges to interpret the law

Dupont Steel Ltd and Others v  
Sirs and Others

Before Lord Diplock, Lord  
Edmund-Davies, Lord Fraser of  
Tullyelton, Lord Keith of Kinkel  
and Lord Scarman

If judges go beyond their judicial role of interpreting plain and simple words in Acts of Parliament because they themselves consider that the results of strict interpretation would be inexpedient, unjust or immoral, confidence in the judicial system may be undermined. Particularly in the controversial field of industrial relations, Parliament's opinion on those matters was paramount.

Members of the House criticized the Court of Appeal for not applying in the recent steel strike proceedings their Lordships' decision in *Express Newspapers Ltd v MacShane* (*The Times*, December 14; [1980] 2 WLR 80). Their Lordships held that acts of trade dispute held that acts of trade dispute were "acts in furtherance of a trade dispute" and so immune from an action for those matters was paramount.

The frequency with which controversial legislation was passed by Parliament indicates that legislation after all had come into operation might produce injurious effects that Parliament did not anticipate. But Parliament did not legislate for individual cases. Public Acts of Parliament were general, governing all cases falling within categories of which the definitions were to be found in the wording of the Act, so, in practice, to section 13(1), for a judge who always dealt with an individual case to pose himself the question "Could Parliament really have intended that the acts that were done in the particular case should have the benefit of the 'act done to furtherance of a trade dispute'?" was to "risk going beyond his constitutional role as interpreter of the enacted law and assuming a power to decide at his own discretion whether or not to apply the general law to a particular case. The legitimate role as interpreter of enacted law were: "How has Parliament, by the words it has used in the statute to express its intentions, defined the category of acts that are entitled to be treated as acts done in furtherance of a trade dispute?"

The House handed down their reasons for allowing (*The Times*, February 2), an interim injunction to 16 private sector steel companies to restrain them from refusing to renew their contracts of employment by striking and against inducing any ISTC members to interfere with the supply of steel to or from their works or to break their promises. The Court of Appeal had refused leave to appeal but it was granted on January 31 by the Appeal Committee of the House of Lords.

Article 17(2) of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, and the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act, 1976, provides: "An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable in tort on the ground only—(a) that it induces another person to break a contract or interferes with any other person to interfere with its performance.

Section 17(2) of the 1974 Act, as amended by the Employment Protection Act, 1975, and the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act, 1976, provides: "(2) It is hereby declared for the avoidance of doubt that where an action is brought in tort on the ground of an act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, the court shall, in exercising its discretion whether or not to grant the injunction, have regard to the likelihood of that party's succeeding at the trial of the action in establishing the matter or matters which would, under any provision of section 13, 14(1) or 14(2), afford a defence to the action."

Mr J. Melville Williams, QC, and Mr John Hendy for the defendants: Mr Alexander Irvine, QC, and Mr Christopher Carr for the plaintiff steel companies.

Lord Diplock said that the House decided in *MacShane* that, on the true interpretation of section 13(1), the test whether an act was "done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute" and so entitled him to grant an injunction from part of the common law, was not as purely subjective; namely, provided that the doer of the act honestly thought at the time he did it that it might help one of the parties to a trade dispute to achieve their objectives and did it for that reason, he was protected.

That conclusion on the meaning of words which had been used by successive Parliaments since the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, to describe acts for which the doer was entitled to immunity from the law of tort, was argued and been much extended by the 1974 and 1976 Acts. It was intrinsically repugnant to anyone who had spent his life in the practice of law or the administration of justice.

During those instincts as his Lordship did, it was a conclusion he himself had reached with considerable reluctance, for given the existence of a trade dispute, it involved granting to trade unions an power, which had no other limit than their own restraint, to inflict by means contrary to the general law untold harm to industrial enterprises unconnected with the particular dispute, to the employees of such enterprises, to members of the public, to the nation itself, so long as those in whom the control of the trade union was vested honestly believed that to do so might assist it, albeit in a minor way, in achieving its objectives in the dispute.

At a time when more and more cases involving the application of legislation which gave effect to policies that were the subject of bitter public and parliamentary controversy, could not be strongly emphasized that the British constitution, though largely unwritten, was firmly based on the separation of powers: Parliament made the laws, the judiciary interpreted them. When Parliament was not legislated to remedy what the majority of its members at the time perceived to be a defect or lacuna in the existing law (which the written law was based on), existing in the unwritten common law as expounded by the judges, the role of the judiciary was confined to ascertaining from the words Parliament had approved as expressing its intention, what that intention was.

Where the meaning of the statutory words was plain it was not for the judges to invent fancied ambiguities as an excuse for failing to give effect to that plain meaning because they themselves considered that the consequences of doing so could be inexpedient, or even unjust or immoral. In controversial matters such as were involved in industrial relations there was room for differences of opinion as to what was expedient, what was just, and what morally justifiable. Under our constitution, it was Parliament's opinion on those matters that was paramount.

A statute passed to remedy what Parliament perceived to be a defect in the existing law might in actual operation turn out to have injurious consequences which Parliament did not anticipate when the statute was passed: if it had, it would have made some provision in the Act in order to prevent that. It was at least possible that Parliament, when the 1974 and 1976 Acts were passed, did not anticipate that so widespread and crippling use as had in fact occurred would be made of statutory provisions without the employers picking up the cost of labour and of labour blacking and picketing of workers' premises in support of sectional interests able to exercise "industrial muscle". But if that

were so, it was for Parliament, not for the judiciary, to decide whether any changes should be made to the law as stated in the Act, and, if so, what were the precise limits that ought to be imposed on the immunity from liability for torts committed in the course of taking industrial action.

It endangered continued public confidence in the political stability of the government and the security of the rule of law if judges, under the guise of interpretation, provided their own preferred amendments to statutes which experience of their operation had shown to have had consequences that members of the court before whom the matter came considered to be injurious to the public interest.

The frequency with which controversial legislation was passed by Parliament indicates that legislation after all had come into operation might produce injurious effects that Parliament did not anticipate. But Parliament did not legislate for individual cases. Public Acts of Parliament were general, governing all cases falling within categories of which the definitions were to be found in the wording of the Act, so, in practice, to section 13(1), for a judge who always dealt with an individual case to pose himself the question "Could Parliament really have intended that the acts that were done in the particular case should have the benefit of the 'act done to furtherance of a trade dispute'?" was to "risk going beyond his constitutional role as interpreter of the enacted law and assuming a power to decide at his own discretion whether or not to apply the general law to a particular case. The legitimate role as interpreter of enacted law were:

"How has Parliament, by the words it has used in the statute to express its intentions, defined the category of acts that are entitled to be treated as acts done in furtherance of a trade dispute?"

The first question had been answered by the House in *MacShane*. The principal question in the appeal was whether the Court of Appeal was right in ruling the finding of Mr Justice Kenner Jones that it was highly probable that the acts complained of in the instant case did fall within the category of acts entitled to the immunity.

In *MacShane*, however, the House had rejected as wrong in law the test remaining in the argument for distinguishing the instant case from *MacShane* which counsel for the companies had addressed to the judge—the only ground on which he felt able to rely in his defence. The House had not rejected at all based on remoteness that himself had admirably and adopted in three earlier cases which he said had not been specifically shaded in *MacShane*. There was no reason to rule that the finding of the judge was correct.

Lord Fraser delivered a concurrence speech.

Lord Keith said that there were no reasonable grounds for doubting that the defendants' action was taken with the genuine purpose of promoting their union's side of its trade dispute with the ESC. There was no reason to rule that the judge was correct in his finding.

Lord Denning had advanced an alternative reason for allowing an injunction notwithstanding that they knew that it was highly probable that the acts that they were enjoining were perfectly lawful. It was unlikely that a temporary respite for the law laid down and applied by the courts of justice would continue to have any influence in controlling industrial action. For those reasons he believed that the individual defendants had been rightly found guilty.

Lord Scarman, however, in his judgment, rejected as wrong in law the test remaining in the argument for distinguishing the instant case from *MacShane* which counsel for the companies had addressed to the judge—the only ground on which he felt able to rely in his defence. The House had not rejected at all based on remoteness that himself had admirably and adopted in three earlier cases which he said had not been specifically shaded in *MacShane*. There was no reason to rule that the finding of the judge was correct.

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Why Europe and the Americans see Afghanistan differently

## Détente: the two views in the West

Détente is indivisible: for years that has been the ritual refrain on both sides of the Atlantic. Yet beneath the surface it has been clearer and clearer that détente, from a western perspective, is in fact divisible.

Reactions to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan have underscored the point. Immediate assessments of international events are likely to overstate their broader significance. Yet it is hard to escape the impression that Afghanistan marks a watershed in relations between the United States and its allies in western Europe.

Much of the trans-Atlantic strain will seem tiresomely familiar, and some of it will be. Yet Afghanistan forces to a head hard questions about the interests of America and Europe in relations with the Soviet Union, and of European and American roles in defending western interests outside Europe.

The risk of serious acrimony across the Atlantic is high. And beneath that possibility lie urgent questions that can no longer be deferred.

The fact is that détente has a meaning for Europeans that it does not for Americans. The web of economic dealings and personal contacts that link Europe's western and eastern halves creates concrete stakes for Europeans that do not exist for Americans.

This is true for West Germans, but it is also true for other Europeans; it is partly obscured in the case of Britain for reasons of history and because the Thatcher Government lies at the right edge of the European consensus.

Europeans are thus bound to see world events, Afghanistan included, through the prism of European détente. By those lights, Afghanistan may look far away. For western European nations to respond like the United States, by curtailing trade and other links with the East, may threaten to upset prevailing patterns, hence seem too risky to contemplate.

Americans, by contrast, will be driven by their global role and remain keenly aware of the slender fruits of détente between the two superpowers. They will be tempted, as in

### The Soviet Union should be compelled to pay some political price for western technology

Afghanistan, to react to Moscow's Third World adventures by cutting what remains of that détente, especially when local circumstances seem to preclude a direct response on the ground.

There is now a broad feeling in the United States that, whatever the defects of previous Carter Administration policies and whatever the shortcomings of patterns of consultation with European allies—and there are many of both—the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is the last straw.

The train is leaving the station, and Europeans should be on it, never mind if it is not yet precisely clear where the train is going. There is much of the ring of the familiar about such American pleadings. They assume that United States policy is correct and Europeans should merely line-up behind it. The first may not be true and the second is as irritating as ever.

Yet there is something anomalous in the fact that now, 35 years after the Second World War, the United States remains the military protector of western interests in a larger government role in East-West economics as well.

Some of the military implications are more immediate still. Increases in American defence spending will not produce more

more important to Europeans than to Americans. Americans are prone to ask if there is any Soviet threat outside Europe that would induce Europeans to put their détente at risk.

The answer may well be no. It may be time for us to stop repeating that détente is indivisible as though we thought it were true, and to come to grips with the implications.

There are obvious grounds to question how wise it has been, or will be, for Europeans to expand economic relations with the East without taking Soviet political behaviour outside Europe into account.

This is not a plea for formal linkage, nor is it to deny the mutual benefits of East-West trade. But the Soviet Union should be compelled to pay some political price for western technology. That requires more coordination among western governments, and probably a larger government role in East-West economics as well.

Some of the military implications are more immediate still. Increases in American defence spending will not produce more

ships in the Indian Ocean soon, or more contingency forces for use in the Third World. As more such forces are required, sooner or later it will bite into American forces earmarked for Europe. That will force hard choices on Europe.

Britain and France, in particular, have military assets in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere to contribute. But if the United States is to continue to bear the lion's share of a growing military burden outside Europe, Europeans will face the need to do more themselves in Europe.

Beyond that, there is the issue of whether the post-war pattern—America providing the military protection for western interests outside Europe—any longer accords with military logic or political sense. The question is not new, and the answers then no easier now than before. But the issue can no longer be relegated to academic debate.

**Gregory F. Treverton**  
The author is assistant director, International Institute for Strategic Studies



Jogging: today's style and how the Greeks did it (below left).

## Coronaries: getting to the heart of the matter

The good progress being made by the four patients recently given heart transplants must be worrying for the mandarin at the head of the Health Service.

More operations for heart disease are being done each year—including coronary bypass grafting, now the leading form of heart surgery in the United States. It is less dramatic than transplantation but equally life saving, and demand seems likely to grow exponentially in the next few years.

Inevitably, this latest success from high-technology surgery will renew pressures for more investment in the hospital services. It will also rekindle the controversy about the balance between the preventive and technological approaches to the control of heart disease. Only in exceptional circumstances (and in some rare forms of heart disease) will heart transplantation be the first choice and for the foreseeable future it will be offered only to patients so ill that their life expectancy is no more than a few months.

The patients will more often be men than women—deaths from heart disease are twice as common in men as women at the age of 45. Medical science has not yet explained this difference which is much less marked than in the elderly.

Each year 250,000 persons die of heart disorders in Britain almost all of these deaths are due to coronary artery disease, and many are in young, otherwise healthy, men and women. However, the grim reality of coronary disease is that it kills very quickly; there may be premonitory symptoms, and early one third of the men and women who die from coronary attacks do so within the hour or so between becoming ill and reaching the hospital.

Most of those who recover return to normal fitness, but sudden death remains a risk that accounts for another 30 per cent in the next five years. Only a minority of patients survive with severe heart damage of the kind that benefits from surgery—but that minority amounts to this of thousands of potential customers for the surgeons.

It is precisely because Shetland is so important and under such pressure, we want to make sure there is something left of an economy when the oil boom is over", Mr John Graham, headmaster of a local school, said.

Already there were daunting indications that unemployment will rise sharply, as the construction phase at Sullom Voe ends and the islanders fear steep increases in their rates, from playing host to one of the largest oil terminals in the world.

**Philip Howard**

that these powers have been essential and should be extended", he said.

It is uncertain how many SIC members will withdraw their support if the Shetland Movement executive receives approval and there are no illusions that it will not be difficult to encourage Westminster, further to relax its authority over areas essential to the United Kingdom economy.

It is precisely because Shetland is so important and under such pressure, we want to make sure there is something left of an economy when the oil boom is over", Mr John Graham, headmaster of a local school, said.

Already there were daunting indications that unemployment will rise sharply, as the construction phase at Sullom Voe ends and the islanders fear steep increases in their rates, from playing host to one of the largest oil terminals in the world.

**Ronald Faux**

cern about deadlines and timetables and finding time to do nothing and enjoy it.

In the United States, where people are caught up to be more health-conscious, smoking has had a greater impact than in Britain. Smoking is less popular; more people are eating polyunsaturated fats, and jogging has become a national pastime.

As a result, the last decade has seen a significant decline in mortality from heart disease—though the experts have been unable to agree which of the changes in the American way of life should take the credit.

Here in Britain the best that can be said is that deaths from heart disease have stopped rising. Anticoronal propaganda has had less exposure (possibly because it has been seen as a governmental responsibility and successive administrations have given it low priority). There may be some grounds for optimism in the decline in smoking in the professional classes (who are often in the vanguard of social change) but politicians of both parties have proved unwilling to use taxation to encourage the population to follow the American example.

Yet however important prevention may be, the reality is that each year over half a million people in Britain have heart attacks and the medical technologists have a lot more to offer than their opponents suggest. One of the most widely repeated criticisms of specialist medicine is that admission of these patients to hospital coronary care units confers no advantage. True, research studies have shown that it a patient who has had a coronary attack is preferable in his bed, not lying in a chair; but for the man who collapses in the street or at his office immediate admission to hospital may be life-saving.

The best results are obtained in cities with an organized squad of ambulances with staff trained to treat cardiac emergencies—and with a local population alerted to summon help quickly.

For since the crucial interval in which someone who has had a heart attack is the first hour or so the lesson to be learnt is that medical help must be called early rather than late. Any one taken suddenly ill with crushing central chest pain or pain extending from the chest to the arms or the neck should be assumed to be having a heart attack; and if a doctor is not immediately available then the decision is plain: call an ambulance. Technological skills can help only those who reach the hospital alive.

**Dr Tony Smith**

Medical Correspondent

## The Greeks had a way of playing the Games

The Greek Prime Minister has renewed his enchanting proposal that the Olympic Games should be returned to their original home. In his letter to Lord Killanin, Mr Constantine Karayannidis, invoked the traditional pieties about the Games: "pure Olympic ceremonial, the austere and sober athletic spirit, the appealing concept of the game for the game's sake." Forty British MPs have just signed a motion supporting his proposal.

What god, what hero, what man shall I loudly praise? Zeus, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Hercules, who founded the Games, and Fred Fliegler for his 27 baskets in the basketball final? Of course the ancient Olympics are the oldest and most sporting athletics meeting in the world. But some of the guff at present written about them errs on the side of romance rather than realism. Human frailty was not absent from Olympia.

Chauvinism intruded even in that golden age. For example, one year Elis and Athens combined to exclude the Spartan squad, supposedly on religious grounds, in much the same way that modern nations combine to exclude others or boycott the modern Games.

It is true that the ancient Olympics, like the modern, were nominally strictly amateur. The winners received only the glory, and chapters of wild olive. All competitors were re-

quired to weed the track and clear the stadium before the races. The facilities provided for the athletes were minimal, washing facilities inadequate, and latrines behind the numbers bus.

However, an Olympic winner was made for life, in much the same way that a modern Russian or American super-star need trouble himself or herself about nothing except sport. An athlete who had won at Olympia could expect high rewards and claim a large pension from his native city, as well as an Ode from Pindar if he was lucky.

There were other lucrative perks. During Roman imperial rule a city in Asia Minor is said to have offered an Olympic winner 30,000 drachmas to enter its local sports. At that time a Roman soldier was paid between 250 and 300 drachmas a year.

The host nation did well out of the Games also. The oligarchy of rich gentlemen-farmers of Elis, who ran the show, had power to fine offenders. Anybody who broke the sacred truce was fined at the rate of two minas per hoplite.

In 480 the great Theogenes, having won the boxing, scratched from the final of the pankration (kicking and hitting were illegal); umpires stood by with rods ready to flog any athlete who broke the rules.

The ancient Olympics because of the penury or greed of the



Zeus—a diplomatic euphemism for themselves.

He was also ordered to pay one talent to the other finalist, Euthymus, "because it seemed to them that it was only to spite him that Theogenes had entered for the boxing." Theogenes paid his fine to the authorities (he had to, if he wanted ever to compete at Olympia again), but came to a disreputable private arrangement with Euthymus that his part of the fine should be remitted on condition that Theogenes did not enter for the boxing at the next Olympics.

Conditions for athletes and spectators at Olympia were not Elysian, but hellish. Epictetus wrote that pankratists were well called "Lions", because of the

are hardships and difficulties in life. Are they not to be found even at Olympia? Don't you get baked by the sun there? Don't you get crushed by the crowds? Don't you find it impossible to get a bath? Don't you get soaked whenever it rains? Don't you have an overdose of noise, shouting, and of exasperation? Yet you stink your heart and put up with it all, because you think that the spectacle makes it worth while."

It is regrettable to have to report it, but there was a good deal of cheating in the ancient Olympics. Lucian notes that pankratists were well called "Lions", because of the

## The Shetlands, thirsty for independence

The 500 members of the Shetland Movement will tomorrow decide whether to endorse a first step towards autonomy for Shetland in most areas of domestic government. Such a move would sharply increase the pressure to have even stronger local control over government decisions directly affecting the islands, through the impact of oil industry and the critical decline in long-established industries, particularly fishing.

The significant strength of the movement, which is 18 months old, is that almost half the Shetland Island Council are members and that they believe Shetland has never been in a stronger or more impressive bargaining position. The proposals, to be put before tomorrow's meeting, include a skeleton constitution, giving a separate parliament, known by the old Nordic title of the Althing, and power for the islanders to run their own revenue raising and administration system.

The proposals are that Shetland should be administered by a local board, elected by the Althing, covering finance, administration, industry and development, roads, education and leisure, ports and harbours, police, fire and civil defence. Board chairmen and the Speaker of the Althing would form an executive council, with power to examine, approve or suggest amendments to United Kingdom legislation, before submission to the Althing. This ability to mould United Kingdom legislation to Shetland's particular needs, would be supplemented by the power to propose special legislation where necessary.

The Althing would handle income tax, road fund licences and rates in the islands, as well as receiving pro rata contributions from central government, from VAT, car tax and

customs duties. In return, the Althing would accept responsibility for administering and financing services which central government had provided. The Althing would remit money each year to the central exchequer, to cover defence, financing the national debt and supporting nationalized industries.

There would be a safeguard provision for talks about aid, between the United Kingdom Government and the Althing, if Shetland ran into debt. That is thought unlikely by the Shetland Movement. They calculate the islands will have a favourable balance of payments for at least 40 years, giving time to develop a strong local economy, which will take over when the oil revenues end. They have not taken account in their calculations of income of the oil reserve fund, which will run into millions of pounds.

The figures they will put forward tomorrow, which have been questioned by some quarters in Shetland, show an estimated expenditure by 1982 of almost £39m. Total income would reach almost £40m for the islands, which have a population of about 22,000. That includes £20m rate income from the Sullom Voe oil terminal.

It is uncertain how many SIC members will withdraw their support if the Shetland Movement executive receives approval and there are no illusions that it will not be difficult to encourage Westminster, further to relax its authority over areas essential to the United Kingdom economy.

It is precisely because Shetland is so important and under such pressure, we want to make sure there is something left of an economy when the oil boom is over", Mr John Graham, headmaster of a local school, said.

Already there were daunting indications that unemployment will rise sharply, as the construction phase at Sullom Voe ends and the islanders fear steep increases in their rates, from playing host to one of the largest oil terminals in the world.

**Ronald Faux**

## LAPLAND DIARY

### Worrying about big brother over the border

Ivalo, Finland. It is getting warmer here. 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle where the temperature has gone up from minus 48 degrees C to only minus 25 degrees. At Rajajooseppi, the tiny frontier station on the eastern border between Finland, Lapland and the Soviet Union, it has been around minus 38 degrees for the past few nights. This is not only the coldest, but one of the most sensitive frontier areas along Finland's Soviet border where the political temperature has also been rising following events in Afghanistan and Yugoslavia.

It is the only place where it is possible to get unimpeded to within 200 metres of the actual crossing as there is no frontier zone as such. The ice-covered road from here to Rajajooseppi (in English, Joseph's Hut) 54km away winds and twists through low, pine-covered hills. At the frontier station, a small collection of unassuming huts with a solitary blue-and-white Finnish flag fluttering in the knife-sharp breeze, the road leads straight on to the important Soviet naval base of Murmansk (population 375,000) two-and-a-half hours' drive away. About 50km north of Rajajooseppi is the only other border crossing at Rajavartio. But this is seldom used, if at all. If any Russian land troops wanted to come through from the east they would have to take one of these roads; the newer one from Murmansk would be the most likely. The three guards I spoke to at Joseph's Hut said the only people who passed through were the odd tourist, usually foreign. They could not remember when the last person went through as it was so long ago. However, there is no doubt in preparation for the Olympic Games (if and when) they must be anticipating an increase in traffic as a new permanent brick-built customs house is under construction to replace the existing "Porte-kabin" type hut. Out in the snow were three motorized skis-scooters which are not only used by the soldiers but by almost everyone else who wants to move off the roads including Lapps rounding up their reindeer.

The area is particularly sensitive at the moment as many Fins who have lived a peaceful, and now extremely prosperous, co-existence with their "big brother", are worried about the international situation which they feel is at its worst since the Korean war which ironically later led to an unprecedented economic boom for the country.

press which have already caused considerable aggravation abroad by suggesting that Russian troops, some 20,000 strong, were massing on the Finnish frontier. Suspicions were increased when Finnish fighters flew low level patrols up and down the Lap border. But these kind of reports were categorically denied by Moscow. Finnish sources in Helsinki say that border exercises, particularly in the southern Karelian isthmus take place off the top half of the country. They also knew that Nato forces would not attempt to hold them back until Soviet forces reached longitude 24 degrees, just west of the Norwegian town of Lakselv.

The ex-officer, remembering 1940 when the Finns held back the Russians, said that if it really came to the point a fierce cold snow falling. The only movement was by a pair of white-clad Finnish soldiers with rifles and walkie-talkies on their backs setting off through the border woods. One said that the greatest danger was in fact from the brown bear of which about 400 have been reported in the area, the highest number ever known.

It is amazing that life goes on in these conditions but it does. At around minus 25 degrees the inside of your nose freezes when you breathe in; air much lower temperatures it is positively dangerous to breathe in fast as the inside of your lungs is likely to get frostbite unless you inhale through a protective cloth.

Surprisingly enough there are few problems with driving on the ice and snow. Cars have to be fitted with studded snow tyres by law and you must remember to plug the electric sump heater into the nearest point when you stop the car, especially for an hour or so, as otherwise the oil freezes. Back axles will often freeze solid and can only be freed by dragging the car with a tractor or lorry. You must not leave the handbrake on (as I did once) or the brake shoes freeze to the drums: if the inside of the car is warm and moist when you step out your boots immediately freeze to the ground unless you move quickly.

You would think all this is enough to put people off all outside work. But no. At the small, expanding skiing resort of Saarisel



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## THE ARC OF ISLAM

Soviet troops should withdraw from Afghanistan. That is the absolute condition of progress in international affairs. But few of us have any clear ideas about how to get them out, and so far we have very reasonably concentrated on making our displeasure felt in various ways, less in the hope of actually getting them out than of making the Soviet leaders think twice before doing the same in another country.

That is right and necessary but it is not enough. We should not resign ourselves to seeing Afghanistan as permanently absorbed into the Soviet empire. That would be bad for the Afghans but also bad for us. It leaves us with the choice either of gradually relaxing our guard and resuming more or less friendly relations with the Soviet Union—in which case we shall simply have demonstrated our weakness and all our gestures of condemnation will have been worse than useless—or of maintaining an atmosphere of hostility and tension, accelerating the arms race, staking out areas of influence throughout the world, and snubbing any Soviet gestures of friendship. We must be prepared to maintain this latter attitude if the occupation of Afghanistan goes on, but it is no good pretending to enjoy it. It will be unpleasant, expensive and dangerous, both for the world in general and for the vicinity of Afghanistan in particular.

In effect we are being forced back to the policies of Mr Dulles, trying to build a highly fortified line of defence across Asia against Soviet expansion, a line which would now have to stretch from Shanghai to the Bosphorus.

## THINGS THAT LOOK PRETTY ODD

"An Act of Parliament can do many wrongs," said Chief Justice Holt in 1701, "though it may do several things that look pretty odd." That maxim, cited by Lord Edmund-Davies, sums up the attitude of the five law lords who yesterday provided their reasons for overturning the decision by the Court of Appeal prohibiting the union from extending the steel strike to the private sector. Their Lordships were at pains to explain that they were reluctant to come to their conclusion but that the terms of the statute obliged them to do so. They were mere interpreters of the law; if the law was oppressive, it was for Parliament, and not judges to change it. Their Lordships found themselves unable to distinguish between the steel case and *MacShane v Express Newspapers*, in which they had decided that secondary blacking on the part of journalists, on the instruction of their union, fell within the immunity granted under section 13 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 because it was an act "in furtherance of a trade dispute". The action by Mr Sirs and his union in calling on workers in the private sector to strike was equally an act in furtherance of a trade dispute, and therefore immune from normal legal action.

Where Parliament grants exceptionally wide powers or immunities to a particular group or authority—whether it be the police, government departments, tax inspectors, or trade unions—the statutory provisions which give rise to those powers must be interpreted restrictively. The greater the power, the stricter the interpretation. That is not only common sense; it is a necessary requirement for the maintenance of the rule of law in a democratic society. For if those authorities or groups are given

wide powers, and in addition are allowed to exercise them without proper legal control, the liberties of the individual are surely in danger. That the trade unions have been given immunities of immense scope is not in doubt. Unhappily, the House of Lords, far from treating the statutory provisions conferring those immunities to the most restrictive interpretation possible, have laid down criteria which, in practice, make it virtually impossible to challenge them.

The House of Lords said in *MacShane*—and they were not obliged to do so—that the test for people undertaking secondary industrial action was whether they honestly believed that their action was capable of furthering the trade dispute in question. If they did so believe, that action was covered by the immunity. It was a subjective test, though slightly qualified by the necessity for the belief to be held honestly, a concept which itself is liable to objective analysis bringing in the element of reasonableness. Only Lord Wilberforce favoured a purely objective test.

We would follow Lord Wilberforce and the MacShane case both on the need for an objective test, and on it having been met.

It was a pity that Lord Wilberforce was unavoidably absent in the steel case.

Lord Scarman's judgment in the steel case set out with clarity the dilemma which judges have to face: "Interpretable does, of course, imply in the interpreter a power of choice were differing constructions are possible. But our law requires the judge to choose the construction which in his judgment best meets the legislative purpose of the enactment... Only if a just result can be achieved without violating the legislative purpose of the statute may the judge select the

construction which best suits his idea of what justice requires."

Unfortunately he went on to say, in effect, that justice required the application of a subjective test. That is not valid.

The law lords, both in MacShane and in the steel case, could have plumped for the objective approach, and won. Indeed they have been following precedents of interpretation. That they did not do so demonstrates their basic illiberality and disregard for individual freedom. As it happens, in both cases, the result would probably have been the same; the actions taken by the unions in the two cases could both have been considered "in furtherance of a trade dispute" under the objectives test.

Lord Diplock, who delivered the principal speech, was quite certain what the relevant section of the statute meant, but when it came to dealing with the letter written by Mr Sirs which had led Lord Denning to say that the dispute had become political and had ceased to be about "trade", showed a laxity of interpretation which hardly inspires confidence.

The definition of "trade dispute" too, requires a strict interpretation, which was not given it by their Lordships, though, again, had they adopted the correct approach, the conclusion would probably have been the same.

If there is one consolation to be drawn from a reading of the reasons provided by the law lords, it is that they, too, now appear to feel strongly that Parliamentary intervention is necessary to save them from further confusion. The error of the Lords is this: they apply a principle of adherence to the statute to confuse Lord Denning, but they do not apply a principle of strict construction to limit the statute. The combination is injurious to liberty.

May I add a plea for the Centre for Information and Advice on Educational Disadvantage, the sole victim selected from a list of 20 executive quangos by the Department of Education and Science? This closure is very difficult to understand in the light of the Pliatsky report, which presumably gives the Government the appropriate guidelines for action.

The centre fulfils all the Pliatsky conditions for survival: its finances are publicly accountable; it is not a vehicle for patronage since none of its governors are paid salaries or emoluments; and, since savings are the object of the exercise, its expenditure of £200,000 is minuscule in relation to total quango expenditure (£5,800m) or even DES quango expenditure of £342m. It meets Pliatsky's criterion as a single-purpose organization whose work cannot be performed by the department, and its work must be essential since the department proposes to use some of the savings to do the same job—though we are not told how.

As I have been informed by Secretary of State that although we were listed in the report as abolished, he is giving the matter further thought, and as he confirmed this to the local education authorities only yesterday, may I hope that he will reverse a decision which was taken without any of the normal processes of evaluation or consultation. I trust he will follow the procedures wisely recommended in the report (paras 77 and 78) and review the situation with us regularly in a serious examination of our work.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES JARDINE,  
Chairman,  
Joint Central Committee,  
Police Federation of England  
and Wales,  
15-17 Langley Road,  
Surbiton,  
Surrey.

## Phased expansion of reserve forces

From Mr Michael Stephen and Mr Phillip Smith

Sir, Mr Alexander (February 7) criticizes me for a point I did not make. I suggested (February 4) that recent House of Lords' decision had interfered with the clarity of the constitutional meaning of the golden formula itself: "in contemplation of furtherance of a trade dispute." Mr Alexander rightly says that the range of actions protected within that formula changed between 1906 and 1976.

If and when the Soviets decide upon their next step it would be foolish to assume that their military planners will give the West enough warning to remedy the neglect of our armed forces, and Mr Pym is right to call for action now.

Since 1945 every young man in the Soviet block has received military training, and their resources of trained manpower are not enormous. By contrast, only a tiny proportion of the men of this country have received any military training at all in the past twenty years, and it is essential that compulsory training is introduced forthwith.

We do not advocate a return to full-time "national service" but over men on reaching the age of 18 should be required to attend a short full-time course of basic training and thereafter to serve in the reserve forces. Much greater efforts should also be made as a matter of urgency to recruit former regular servicemen into the reserves, units of which should be created.

The Donovan Report in 1968 unanimously recommended that the forces be expanded by 100,000 men, and the Interference (Severn) Committee, in its report, recommended a similar increase. The 1966 Act protected inducing breach of contracts of employment in order to make industrial action lawful. In cases decided in the 1950s and 1960s, however, the courts widened trade unionists' liabilities, especially by making their industrial action unlawful for interfering with commercial contracts.

The Donovan Report in 1968 unanimously recommended that the forces be expanded by 100,000 men, and the Interference (Severn) Committee, in its report, recommended a similar increase. The 1966 Act protected inducing breach of contracts of employment in order to make industrial action lawful. In cases decided in the 1950s and 1960s, however, the courts widened trade unionists' liabilities, especially by making their industrial action unlawful for interfering with commercial contracts.

From Mr Geoffrey Vickers, V.C.E.

Sir, Why not leave the right to picket with the wide meaning which it has now been declared to have but confine it to its legitimate purpose—to inform and persuade—by limiting the numbers on any picket line to those who can do so without intimidating more numbers? Surely it is "in

reverence" of the law that it would be hard to argue persuasively for a limit higher than three persons.

A picket is not a demonstration.

Participants in a demonstration

stress by their numbers how strong

and widespread is the cause they espouse. But if at the end they wish to present a petition or plead their cause only a small delegation is allowed to do so. A picket by contrast has special immunities and powers precisely because its functions are supposed to be limited to those of the "delegation", as distinct from the demonstration.

Intimidation is a function of numbers as well as behaviour, as everyone knows who has ever approached a crowd that deliberately bars his way. The right to intimidate is not a right of man or of democracy or of the trade union movement. It is a wrong and has always been so.

Picketing is a right. Demonstration is a right. But they are different rights with different limitations and different immunities. The confusion of the two is a form of double talk we need to root out.

Those who opposed such a limitation of numbers on one picket line could support their argument only by admitting that what they prize is the right to initiate, not the right to inform and persuade—the former rights, not the real one.

Trade unionists were quick to realize (not the least slow being the politically motivated) that here was a weapon of quite enormous power which was apparently within the law and the two recent decisions of the House of Lords confirm its legality.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE VICKERS,

The Grange,

Manor Road,

Goring,

Reading,

Berks.

February 5.

From Mr Leonard Griffiths

Sir, Some of your correspondents

and many others who argue about

what the law is or was miss an im-

portant point.

While the law on striking and

picketing has changed little over

the years the manner in which trade

unions conduct strikes has changed

profoundly since 1972 when the

"flying picket" first emerged on

a significant scale at a Birmingham

generating station.

Trade unionists were quick to

realize (not the least slow being the

politically motivated) that here was

a weapon of quite enormous power

which was apparently within the

law and the two recent decisions of

the House of Lords confirm its

legality.

Yours very truly,

LEONARD GRIFFITHS,

Quicke's House,

Overleigh,

Marlborough,

Wiltshire.

February 6.

From Mr Tom Minchin

Sir, The flaw in Mr Frampton's

argument of January 17 is that he

Viewed in the round, his picture

is rather different.

When the Church of Scientology was

one of 20,000 individuals and

groups so targeted in the United

States. Unlike many, including Jean

Woring, who allegedly committed

suicide as a result of FBI harass-

ment, the Church of Scientology

weathered the storm, albeit as the

recipient of a good many "dirty

tricks" including forging the

policy letters.

When, in the early 1970s, the

Church discovered that it was

among those on the now notorious

"enemies' list" of Mr Nixon, it

sought to prominence the

Interference (Severn) Committee

which had been circulated in

the United States and abroad.

This is being done through the

courts, and has been to a large

degree successful. The Church is

now officially recognized in the

United States, Canada, Australia,

New Zealand, Rhodesia, Germany,

Sweden and Denmark.

The American proceedings to

which Mr Frampton refers are

under appeal on major grounds.

Those grounds were recognized as

sufficiently serious by the United

States Court of Appeals at the end

of last year that it granted bail to

all defendants. The essence of the

grounds of appeal is that the case

is political and that COINTELPRO

lives on.

That controversy is an internal

United States matter. In this country

the fact is that the ban on overseas

Scientologists was examined for two

years by a government inquiry under

Sir John Foster, QC. His report con-

cluded that the ban was unjustified

and contrary to Anglo-Saxon tradi-

tion.

The principle at issue was that

as the law should apply to all

equally, so bureaucratic structures

and licence should also apply to all



## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM** February 6: By command of The Queen, the Lord Hamilton of Dulzell (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, but, turning upon the departure of The Queen of the Hellenic Kingdom of Jordan, and bade farewell to His Majesty on behalf of Her Majesty.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** February 7: The Duke of Edinburgh arrived in the Royal Train at Aberdeen Station this morning and was received by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen (Mr W. J. Fraser).

His Royal Highness afterwards flew from Dyce Airport to visit the Safety Vessel *MSV Tharsos*, near the Piper Platform in the North Sea.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Air Commodore, later visited Royal Air Force Kinloss (Commanding Officer, Group Captain J. B. Harris).

Wing Commander Antony Nicholson was in attendance. The Prince of Wales this afternoon, in the absence of Prince Edward, received Professor T. Sykes.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE** February 6: The Prince of Wales, Prince of British Institute, was present this evening at a performance of the film "Red Dust" at the National Film Theatre, London SE1.

Mr Oliver Everett was in attendance.

**CLARENCE HOUSE** February 7: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, in the service of Thanksgiving for Miss Grenfell which was held in Westminster Abbey this afternoon.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr. A. Parker** and **Mrs. J. Woolcombe**

The engagement is announced between Adrian, second son of Mr and Mrs P. W. Baxter, of 12 King Edward's Road, Ruislip, and Lucinda (Lucy), fourth daughter of Mr and Mrs J. H. G. Woolcombe, of St Leonard's Road, Ealing and Hemerton House, Plympton, Devon.

**Mr. N. R. G. Carrington** and **Mrs. L. M. Hartley**

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place on May 17 between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs T. G. Carrington, of Nightingale Crescent, West Horsley, Surrey, and Linda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Hartley, of Kilkis House, Burton-on-Lonsdale, Lancashire.

**Mr. D. G. Cassidy** and **Miss R. E. Wells**

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs C. D. T. Cassidy, of Nairobi, Kenya, and Rosamond, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Wells, of Clun, Shropshire.

**Mr. A. H. Llewelyn** and **Miss C. M. St Aubyn**

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the Rev J. H. N. and Mrs Llewelyn, of Burton Stacey, Hampshire, and Caroline, younger daughter of Major and Mrs E. E. St Aubyn, of Wontton St Lawrence, Hampshire.

Mr. G. Phillips

The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A. L. P. Chaucry, of Hesher, Surrey, and Felicity, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. A. Wheel, of Wimslow, Cheshire.

**Mr. G. F. Flynn**

The engagement is announced between Gordon, son of Mr and Mrs M. G. Flynn, of Glasgow, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rex Taylor, of West Kirby, Wirral.

**Mr. M. J. Wakefield**

The engagement is announced between Mark Jeremy, younger son of Mr and Mrs P. E. Wakefield, of Desford, Leicestershire, and Barbara, daughter of the late Mr. G. F. Dearberg, and Mrs Dearberg of 10 Pembroke Road, London, W8.

**Marriages**

**Mr. R. E. Coote**

and **Mrs. A. L. Ellis**

The marriage took place on Saturday, February 2, in London between Mr Richard Coote and Mrs Lynne Ellis.

**Mr. R. A. H. Davis**

and **Mrs. S. L. Evans**

The marriage took place on February 1, 1980, at St Mary The Boltons Church, Kensington, London, between Nobby, son of Mr and Mrs L. H. Davis, of Reigate, Surrey, and Mrs Sarah Evans, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Millar, of Sydney, Australia.

**1574 miniature for sale**

By Geraldine Norman

The finest miniature painting by Nicholas Hilliard to appear on the market for the past 20 years is to be offered at Sotheby's on March 24. Hilliard was the great limner of the Elizabethan court and perhaps the first British painter of outstanding personal distinction.

The miniature portrait to be offered on March 24 was painted in 1574; it depicts an attractive young bride, Jane Boughton, nee Coningsby, at the age of 21, and bequeathed to Hilliard's first period patron, when her hair tightly waved, is shown in head and shoulders: the miniature is circular and measures 4.2cm across. The painting is no valuation is £10,000 and is mounted in a stained ivore frame.

Mary Hilliard miniatures of Queen Elizabeth and King James have survived, fairly mechanical repetitions of court portraits; but only a few of these portraits are known. The painting is in almost perfect condition.

It has been sent for sale by descendants of the sitter, the

**KENSINGTON PALACE** February 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President, this evening attended the Dockland Settlements' annual Dinner held at the Banqueting Room, Whitehall. The Hon. Mrs Willis was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE** ST JAMES'S PALACE February 7: The Duke of Kent, as Patron, today visited the National Army Museum at Royal Hospital Road, Chelsea.

Captain John Treadwell was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, today visited the University of Leeds.

Her Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Miss Cedra Goodman Irvine.

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace on March 4.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Royal Society of Arts, will preside at a meeting of the Committee for the Environment at Buckingham Palace on February 13.

The Duke of Edinburgh will chair the selection panel for The Duke of Edinburgh's Design Prize at the Design Centre, Haymarket, on February 20.

The Duke of Edinburgh will open the "British Growers" Look Ahead" national conference and exhibition of the National Farmers' Union at Harrogate, on February 26.

A memorial service for Lord Pearson will be held in the Temple Church at 4.45 pm on Tuesday, March 4, 1980.

## Concert

**ROYAL MARINES** Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, attended a concert at the Royal Albert Hall given by the massed bands of the Royal Marines in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children and Service charities on Wednesday evening.

The concert, given annually in February, was the year a tribute to the late Admiral of the Fleet Earl Mountbatten of St Albans, the Right Rev. Robert Runcie, was elected unanimously by the Dean and Chapter to be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. His was the only nomination, addressed to the assembled dignitaries in a letter signed by the Queen.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Torrence Lewis, Chief of the Defence Staff, and Lady Mountbatten, the Right Rev. Robert Hall, Canon, Mrs Davies, Royal Navy, Master, Armourer and Brasier, Mr. W. B. Hodson, Master Gunner, Mr. H. H. Hodson, Gunner and Alderman Sir John M. Bader, W. P. Baddeley, chairman, Malcolm Sargent, Canon, Mrs. S. M. Sargent, Mrs Baddeley and Professor and Mrs John Gilroy.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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■ Stock markets
FT Index 462.9 up 7.0
FT Gilts 66.05 up 0.57
■ Sterling
\$2.3000 down 1.25 cents
Index 72.9 down 0.1
■ Dollar
Index 84.9 unchanged
■ Gold
\$697.5 down \$20
■ Money
3 month sterling 171/4 to 172
3 month Euro \$ 141 to 142
6 month Euro \$ 141 to 142

### IN BRIEF

#### Car production up

Passenger cars produced in Britain during January totalled 98,000, an increase of 6 per cent, while commercial vehicles rose by nearly 9 per cent. Since August there has been a steady rise in output from both the passenger and the commercial sectors.

#### More fire damage

Fire damage in England, Scotland and Wales rose to £355.3m last year, compared with £309.3m in 1978, according to latest estimates from the British Insurance Association.

#### Longho sale settled

Final details for the sale of Goff Fisheries' 19 per cent stake in Longho to Mr Graham Lacey were believed to have been resolved yesterday. But Sheikh Nasser will consider them before any official announcement is made, which will probably be early next week.

Financial News, page 20

#### China to seek \$20,000m

China will borrow more than \$20,000m (£8,700m) on the international capital markets between now and 1985, according to Mr Yang Bo, vice-chairman of the state planning commission. The Bank of China in London and Luxembourg will borrow direct from foreign banks and may also float loans on capital markets.

#### Labour amendments

The Labour Party has tabled a series of about 50 amendments to the Companies Bill, including revisions to the clauses on insider dealing, industrial democracy and holding companies' liability for their subsidiaries.

#### Spain finds oil

Spain has found oil off its north-western coast but it is not yet known whether the deposit is exploitable, says a spokesman for Shell Espana S.A. The find, about 31 kilometres north of Gijon, was the third in the area.

#### More Meccano talks

The union negotiating team from the Meccano toy plant on the Edge Hill industrial estate at Liverpool has left for London for another meeting with the board of Airfix Industries, the parent company. Hard negotiations on a final settlement is expected.

#### Venezuela plans cut

Venezuela plans to cut its 2.2 million barrels a day oil output to about one million barrels a day in the long term, Senor Enrique Tejera Paris, the Venezuelan socialist leader said in an interview in Vienna.

#### METAL

Union rejects offer

Trade union negotiators representing more than 1 million metalworkers in the West German state of North Rhine-Westphalia have rejected a 6.8 per cent pay offer, an employers' spokesman said in Gelsenkirchen. He said the union demands wage increases of 9.6 per cent.

#### Hedderwick Stirling

Stockbrokers Hedderwick Stirling Grumbar have asked us to make it clear that Mr Colin Franklin, the firm's managing director, is retiring and has not resigned from the firm. Hedderwick said that Mr Franklin continues to enjoy the respect of everybody in this firm both for his ability and integrity.

#### PRICE CHANGES

#### Rises

Assam Trdg B 30p to 550p  
Audiostronic 1p to 50p  
Broken Hill 20p to 570p  
Castledene 42p to 505p  
Guthrie 20p to 570p

#### Falls

Arwest 10p to 175p  
Aust Amer Ind 25p to 850p  
De Beers Ind 20p to 880p  
Eibach Gold 30p to 510p  
Northgate Ex 10p to 530p

#### THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	2.12	2.05
Austria Sch	30.25	28.25
Belgium Fr	69.04	67.66
Canada \$	2.73	2.44
Denmark Kr	12.95	12.44
Finland Mkk	8.80	8.40
France Fr	9.57	9.27
Germany Dm	9.19	9.37
Hongkong \$	95.00	90.90
Ireland P	1.11	1.07
Italy Lir	1235.00	1245.00
Japan Yen	577.00	552.00

Rates for small denominations bank notes only are subject to a 10% discount. Different rates apply to large foreign currency cheques and other foreign currency business.

## Britain asks EEC to impose quota restrictions on US fibre exports

By John Huxley

Britain has applied to the European Commission to impose temporary quotas on imports of man made textiles in a long awaited move to thwart the flood of low cost goods from the United States.

The application, which is expected to be dealt with in five days, covers polyester filament yarn, nylon carpet yarn and tufted carpets of man made fibres.

The minister recognises that concern has also been expressed by producers of downstream products (household textiles, knitted and woven fabrics) sales of which have also been disrupted.

However, Mr Nutt decided that there was not at present a case under the GATT for restricting these imports. These would be monitored carefully.

No indication of the likely level of quotas was given although it is understood that they will cut back American imports from the levels achieved last year.

Herb Wilhelm Haferkamp, the commissioner responsible for external relations, will today set at first hand the effect on British industry of the imports surge.

Accompanied by Sir Fred Catherwood, chairman of the European Parliament's external economic relations committee, Herr Haferkamp will visit an ICI fibres plant in Pontypool and then fly on to Carrickfergus plant of Courtaulds in Northern Ireland.

Lated in Belfast he will meet leaders of the man made fibres industry, which employs more than 6,000 people in Northern Ireland. He has been invited to Britain by the Man Made Fibres Producers Committee.

The industry's reaction to the announcement was mixed. The British Textile Confederation welcomed the Government's initiative to curb cheap United States imports but added that it was looking for "rapid and positive" response by the Commission to the United Kingdom Government's request for action.

The BTC is disappointed that the United Kingdom has not asked for action on a number of synthetic products where it feels action is required. It is also disappointed that no announcement on base levels for import quotas has been made.

Financial News, page 19

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Italy Lir	1235.00	1245.00
Japan Yen	577.00	552.00

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## GEC ready to challenge fresh bid by Racal

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke  
Financial Editor

The takeover battle for Decca intensified yesterday. The stock market had hardly had time to digest Racal's new £93m bid when GEC announced that it would return to the fray this morning with an increased offer.

Racal had taken three days to come back with its response to GEC's surprise offer for Decca. In doing so it increased its all-equity offer for Decca from £65m to £93m with the Racal share price at 217p. But Racal matched GEC's cash offer exactly, a commitment it would meet from internal funds and borrowings if it had to.

Last night GEC issued a short statement saying that it would make an increased offer this morning. It is expected at least to match Racal's equity terms with cash, something which it can well afford to do given its substantial funds, and thus force Racal to arrange an underwriting operation for its shares if it wishes to go further.

Meanwhile, both bidders seem to be maintaining each other in market buying of Decca shares. With Racal's new offer, the table Decca's ordinary shares, quoted at 25p to 50p, although up 2p to 417p. In both cases this is some way short of Racal's best terms, though there remains a nagging doubt over whether the whole situation will be referred to the Monopolies Commission.

Racal is still carrying the implied support of the Decca board, now under the chairmanship of Mr Graham Maw. Racal referred yesterday to the fact that the late Sir Edward Lewis, who had for years resisted takeover overtures, had finally given his blessing for a bid for Decca to Mr Ernest Harrison, Racal's chairman. A few days later Sir Edward died but the Decca board obviously feels that his wishes should be carried out—but only if Racal can offer Decca shareholders more than GEC.

Racal also senses that some parts of the Decca workforce might prefer Racal to GEC. Mr Harrison went out of his way yesterday to reject ideas that if Racal gained Decca "heads would roll".

Financial Editor, page 19

## Deloittes pay £900,000 to settle liquidator's claim but deny negligence on behalf of partners

Deloittes Haskins & Sells have agreed to pay £900,000 in settlement of a claim brought against them by the liquidator of London & County Securities, the fringe bank whose collapse in 1973 precipitated the second banking crisis.

A writ alleging negligence on the part of London & County's auditors, Harwood Banner (which merged with Deloittes in May 1974) was filed in May 1977.

The liquidator claimed £5.75m, plus interest and costs.

Deloittes, who continue to do business with the partners of Harwood Banner, estimate that if the case had run its full course it might have taken another six months to settle, and have involved a potential liability of over £10m.

The settlement is the second

highest agreed by a firm of accountants in Britain in respect of a professional indemnity claim. Last summer Mann Judd, which has subsequently merged with Touche Ross, agreed to pay about £1.8m in respect of a claim arising out of its services to Barrow Hepburn the leather group.

Deloittes say that in agreeing to settle, the partners have taken into account the very heavy costs incurred, and to be incurred if the case went on, and the fact that all concerned have an interest in dispute of £10m for so long.

Mr Stanley Wilkins, deputy senior partner of the firm, said yesterday that the cost had to be measured, not merely in financial terms, but also in the time of the senior people who were tied up on the case.

Deloittes will have to carry part of the settlement themselves, most of the cost will be covered by professional indemnity insurance which the firm, said last night, is not measured against the actual claim.

Mr Langdon, the liquidator, said last night that the firm of London & County Securities, which had been a major shareholder in the bank, had to be measured against the actual claim.

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Mr Langdon, the liquidator, said yesterday afternoon.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Sir Keith lays down tighter controls for BSC finances

By Peter Hill

New and stricter monitoring of the British Steel Corporation's finances have been laid down by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, for the new financial year which begins in April.

The BSC, which today re-opens negotiations with the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation over the pay claim, which has led to the strike, will be required to provide more detailed information of its requirements for funds and its disbursement of them from next month onwards.

Terms of the new controls have been outlined by Sir Keith in a memorandum to Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman.



## Hoffmann convicted over Valium 'give-away'

Hoffmann-La Roche, the Quebec-based subsidiary of a Swiss company that manufactures and distributes the tranquiliser Valium, has been convicted in Toronto under the Combines Investigation Act of trying to eliminate competition in Canada over a seven-year period.

The company faces an unspecified fine that will be set by the Ontario Supreme Court judge who tried the case.

In his 112-page judgment, Justice Allen Linden found that starting in 1970, Hoffmann-La Roche gave away millions of doses of Valium to hospitals and sold large amounts in government contracts for one dollar to counter competition in the tranquiliser market.

Judge Linden said that when Hoffmann-La Roche started its give-away programme, it was prepared to lose \$can2.6m (about £1m) worth of Valium sales—which it did—to prevent a forecast loss of \$can600m in sales to a competitor that year.

Roche's aim could only have been to eliminate Horner (a competing tranquiliser manufacturer) from the hospital market and to warn others that they too would be eliminated.

### Delegate to Japan



Mr Douglas Fraser (above), president of United Automobile Workers of America, who last month urged a curb on Japanese imports, has joined an international trade union mission leaving for Japan on Monday to discuss Japanese car exports with Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister.

### EEC crude cost up

The price of imported oil in the European Community increased in the week ending January 28, but consumer costs slipped, the EEC Commission reports. The increase in the cost of imported crude since the end of 1978 stood at 12 per cent, 8 points higher than the previous week, but pre-tax payments for crude and finished products fell to 87 per cent above the December 1978 level.

### Effect on silver gains

Higher price of fine silver must affect the prices of some precision machines in the electrical industry, Brown Boveri und Cie AG of Manheim say. The company uses 20 tonnes of silver annually in various branches at a cost at current prices of DM45m (about £11m) against DM11m a year ago.

### Partial AEG pact

AEG Telefunken, managing board and employee representatives reached partial agreement over the company's rationalisation plan, a report from Frankfurt says. Payments to workers leaving the company under the programme has been agreed, but the number of workers affected and the period of time involved remain unsettled.

### Bermuda inflation

Inflation reached a record 13.3 per cent in Bermuda last year. The Government has announced in Hamilton. The cost of fuel and power increased by 55 per cent during 1979. Bermuda had an annual inflation rate of about 6 per cent in the previous two years.

### More oil for India

Iraq will supply six million tonnes of crude oil to India this year, two million tonnes more than originally agreed but only slightly up on the 5.8 million tonnes supplied in 1979, says Mr Hamed Alwan, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs.

### Ore price raised

Major Japanese steel companies have agreed to pay an average of 20 per cent more for Australian iron ore shipments in fiscal 1980 beginning next April, a Nippon Steel Corporation spokesman said in Tokyo. The new ore price will be about \$18 (almost £8) a tonne.

### Boat production up

The seasonally adjusted preliminary West German December index of industrial production, at 126 (1970 equals 100), was up 1.6 per cent from a downward revised November index of 125, and rose 6.7 per cent from an index of 119 registered in December, 1978, the economics ministry in Bonn reports.

Domestic and international chains planning increased investment

## Britain ripe for hotel development

The top three international hotel chains have identified Britain as a growth prospect for new hotel development—the first sign of fresh investment melting the virtual freeze imposed on such projects in the last five years by cost problems.

Commonwealth Holiday Inns of Canada, an international associate of the Tennessee-based Holiday Inns Inc, has already launched into a £40m development programme to double the size of its United Kingdom chain. Holiday Inns Inc, which has seven hotels in Britain to the Commonwealth's chain's six, is also considering several sites. Between them, they expect to increase the number of Holiday Inns to about 30 by 1985.

Hilton Hotels, the world's second largest chain, which has three hotels in Britain, has just started site work for a £10.5m hotel with 381 rooms at Garwick. Although it has had problems in putting together a financial package to build on the prime Castle Terrace site at Edinburgh, on which its option has now lapsed, Hilton is still hoping to come up with an acceptable scheme for this development.

Ramada Hotels, third in the world league, has also turned its sights on Britain. It is negotiating for a private site in central London and for another on the centre fringe belonging to a local authority. It is also considering at least one hotel at a London airport and is site hunting in Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester.

There are signs of investment in new hotels from some of Britain's own chains, though their development strategies differ from the three American-based hotel groups.

Trust Houses Forte (THF), Britain's largest domestic chain, is upgrading 260 hotels and in the past year has added 1,000 bedrooms by extending present properties. But with its 32nd Post House



Mr Howard Field of Commonwealth Holiday Inns: enthusiastic about Britain.

due to open at Haydock Park in the summer with 100 bedrooms, there are plans for further expansion.

There were suggestions the Post House chain would be doubled in size within five or so years, but Sir Charles Forte, THF's executive chairman, was less specific, saying the chain should reach 100 hotels by the end of the century.

THF's success record in growth by acquisition may be a factor because of the likelihood of more properties coming on the market at lower prices. Hotel values, quadrupled in the last five years, could this year decline between 20 and 30 per cent compared with the high prices of the second half of last year, according to GBS Consultants.

Trafalgar House Investments' Cunard Hotels, which has been extending existing hotels, is tendering for a central York

scheme. Several other groups have short lists of cities and towns where development appears feasible if the right sites become available.

Among them is the Grand Metropolitan group, Mr Graham Lewis, its hotels division chief executive, said: "We are looking for sites that will combine a dual attraction of tourism, business and commercial traffic. It is now sensible to acquire sites and start building before the next set of inflation rates hit us."

This view, underlined by a threatened hotel bedroom shortage within five years, was echoed by Mr Howard Field, financial controller of Commonwealth Holiday Inns. Like some other hoteliers, Mr Field expects a dip in profits this year after good results in 1979 because of the effects of high interest rates combined with an easing in occupancy levels. But he added: "We are fairly enthusiastic about prospects. It should be possible to develop in the United Kingdom and make a reasonable return on investment."

The Commonwealth chain has three hotels under construction, at Aberdeen, Portsmouth and Glasgow city centre, and three other central developments under detailed negotiation at Manchester, Cardiff and Harrogate. There are also three possible Irish Republic sites at Shannon, Cork and Dublin, and other possible British sites at Sheffield and Milton Keynes.

Behind all these investment moves lie several factors, among them a trend outside central London, where prime sites are rare, for local authorities to attract hotel investment by incentives, including equity participation in construction costs. The first effects are also being felt of the Government's concession to the industry of limited industrial building tax allowances.

Derek Harris

## Fertilizer ships sail for Russia

By John Earle

Rome, Feb 7

The chairman of the main operating companies of ENI, the Italian state-owned hydrocarbon group, has called upon Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Prime Minister, in a telegram published today, to end the uncertainty which has lasted since early December and decide on the group's leadership.

The Prime Minister suspended Signor Giorgio Mazzanti, the group's chairman when Saudi Arabia blocked oil supplies to ENI in reaction to Italian press allegations that at least part of \$114m (£49m) commission on a deal involving 12.5 million tons of crude was destined for Saudi pockets.

Pending inquiries into the affair, Signor Cossiga appointed Signor Egidio Egidi as government commissioner with the title of deputy chairman to run ENI.

The government inquiry by a special six-member commission was given until tomorrow to report, but its findings have already been drafted and are expected to be considered tomorrow by the Cabinet.

A parallel inquiry has been conducted by a parliamentary commission which is due to discuss its report next Wednesday. The affair is also being investigated by the judiciary, but no end to their enquiries is in sight.

The telegram to the Prime Minister, from the chairman of nine companies including Agip, Nuovo Pignone, Saipem, Smeprogetti, Anic and Snam, said they had been induced to "break our long and disciplined state of uncertainty" by the continuing export of phosphates to the USSR will not hurt them.

"In addition Russia has reserves from its own huge resources of rich phosphate sapite which can be diverted to make up any possible deficiency."

Last year, Dr Armand Hammer, the chairman of Occidental, signed two new contracts as part of a 20-year fertilizer raw materials agreement with the Soviet Union.

## ENI chairmen call for leadership decision

From John Earle

Rome, Feb 7



Signor Francesco Cossiga: asked to end uncertainty.

reinstepped, rather than on whether the commission was destined for Italians, Saudis, or a third party, although Saudi Arabia has made plain it will require clarification of this point before oil supplies can be resumed.

All that has been admitted officially is that the commission of 7 per cent was payable to Spinalv, a Panamanian letter box company.

Signor Giorgio La Malfa, leader of the Republican Party, today said it was already possible to conclude from the inquiries that the work of ENI should be censured and Signor Mazzanti should be replaced.

Parliament should also consider the behaviour of the ministers involved (those most directly concerned are Signor Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister, and Signor Gaetano Sammati, the Foreign Trade Minister), as well as the need for a decision by the Government regarding the chairman and deputy chairman of ENI.

Speculation about what the various inquiries have unearthed has so far centred on whether Signor Mazzanti should be

## Wider range of machine tools urged

By Edward Townsend

Britain's machine tool industry, still losing almost half its home market to importers, has been told by the industry's Little Noddy that further adjustment of product ranges to market opportunities is central to its performance expectations in the early 1980s.

The industry has already invested considerable sums, often with Government aid, in new product development and is hoping for improvement in the home market share and a major advance in exports.

However, the machine tool economic development committee in its latest report published today says that the fact that imports tools more than 50 per cent of the £12m growth in United Kingdom consumption in 1978—at a time when there was underutilized capacity in some areas of the home industry—"provides evidence of a need for urgency by the industry to align its product range still more closely to the changing requirements of customers".

In the fast-growing but small field of numerical control (NC) turning machines and machining centres, which represent 10 per cent of the United Kingdom market in value, imports rose by 73 and 55 per cent respectively in 1978, continued at high rates in 1979.

On the export front the tripartite EDC stresses that investment programmes in the automotive and aero industries in the United States and elsewhere present major opportunities, and the industry recognises that competition will be fierce.

Nevertheless, the industry appears confident of improvement in exports and at home on the basis of product and market development and, by implication, is aiming for higher standards of company operating efficiency."

"Machine Tools EDC Progress Report 1980. Available free from NEDO Books, 1 Steel House, 1a Tothill Street, London, SW1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Too little use made of creative talent

From Mr Nicholas Treadwell

Sir, it is generally realized that in creative areas of contemporary life, we British can be said to lead the world. By creative areas I mean theatre, fashion, pop music, TV, fine art, etc. In all of these fields during the last 15 years we have produced individuals who have made world-wide impact.

Among them is the Grand Metropolitan group, Mr Graham Lewis, its hotels division chief executive, said: "We are looking for sites that will combine a dual attraction of tourism, business and commercial traffic. It is now sensible to acquire sites and start building before the next set of inflation rates hit us."

This view, underlined by a threatened hotel bedroom shortage within five years, was echoed by Mr Howard Field, financial controller of Commonwealth Holiday Inns. Like some other hoteliers, Mr Field expects a dip in profits this year after good results in 1979 because of the effects of high interest rates combined with an easing in occupancy levels. But he added: "We are fairly enthusiastic about prospects. It should be possible to develop in the United Kingdom and make a reasonable return on investment."

The Commonwealth chain has three hotels under construction, at Aberdeen, Portsmouth and Glasgow city centre, and three other central developments under detailed negotiation at Manchester, Cardiff and Harrogate. There are also three possible Irish Republic sites at Shannon, Cork and Dublin, and other possible British sites at Sheffield and Milton Keynes.

and I do not believe we understand the full scope of its potential.

Today's art students do not think they will survive by just making their art when they graduate. They are no longer that naive and are prepared to use their creative minds in almost any direction, no matter how down to earth.

In mass production terms, our industry and commerce are less and less able to compete in world markets and there arises a strong argument for increasing the creative content of British products. More originality would mean less competition and higher prices, and the market for unique and unusual products is a growing one.

Yes, I know, not quite so simple as it sounds, but it certainly appears that the competitive mass production of basic products is unlikely again to be a viable proposition for Britain.

Let us therefore exploit our exceptional creative resources to the full and, both commercially and industrially, be more original, more individual, more imaginative and change for it accordingly.

We probably have more art schools than any other country and we spend millions educating, and thereby encouraging, creative talent; but, once having done this, we make little or no effort to use this talent

### Problem of the dollar

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, Your leader (January 26) argues that the dollar is too cheap because it produces an American trading surplus which you consider a "distortion" for the rest of the world. But surely, this is the best possible way of reducing the "overhang" of dollars which the rest of the world no longer wants to hold? For decades, the United States has had the advantage of the world reserve currency to run a deficit (ie obtain a surplus of useful goods and services) from the rest of the world in exchange for supplying reserves.

Why should the rest of the world not now be willing to reverse this process, to obtain goods and services from the United States in exchange for reducing its own unwanted overhang?

You quote Germany and Opec as the main victims of the "too cheap" dollars. You could not have hit on two economies less likely to need your concern or sense of sympathy. Is there a law of nature that Germany must always have a surplus? And do you grudge the non-dollar oil importers the small relief from higher oil prices as a result of the "too cheap" dollar? But then, Opec will in any case set it that the cheapness of the dollar is reflected in higher dollar prices for oil. The impact on the United Kingdom and some other economies is a much more serious matter.

The United States trading surplus, while welcome as long as there is a dollar overhang, does not reduce the urgency of finding more permanent solutions for the collapse of the Bretton Woods system based on the dollar as the world reserve currency. The substitution account, the rise in the price of gold, Special Drawing Rights, together with a United States trading surplus, are all stopgaps while a new international monetary order emerges.

Yours faithfully,

H. W. SINGER,

18 The Vale,

Ovingdean,

Brighton, Sussex.

January 28.

### It's an old problem

From Mr John Beavis

Sir, Three topics have dominated your recent pages—the price of gold, an external and growing threat to our security and a major strike in the iron and steel industry. Jean Gimpel in his excellent book, *The Medieval Machine*, reminds us that this combination of problems is by no means new. In 1260 the Franciscan monk, Bartholomew, felt moved to write:

Use of iron is more useful to men in many things than use of gold. Though covetous men have more gold than iron, without iron the commonality is not sure against enemies, without iron the common right is not governed; with iron innocent men are defended; and foolhardiness of wicked men is chastened with dread of iron. And well nigh no handiwork is wrought without iron, neither tilling craft used nor building builded without iron.

As the external threat increases and covetous men accumulate gold, let us hope that 600 years on, our priorities are right and that on both sides the desire to be the victor of the present industrial battle does not also destroy much of the steel industry and its dependent communities. It would be very sad if at some future date there was an insufficiency of the two metals that the two commonly be not sure against each other.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN B. BEAVIS,

"Three Friars,"

36 Priestfields,

Rochester Kent.

February 4.

### British Rail unpunctuality

From Mr Graham Walne

S

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## GEC will respond

Racal's share price ended the trading session yesterday evening at 217p, where its new paper offer for Decca is worth £93m, but that was before GEC said it would counter again. By any measure though Racal's is a decent response to GEC's first bid of £82m in cash. Racal's latest offer is not less than 43 per cent higher than its first, so there is a message here somewhere not least for Decca's board and its advisers County Bank, who had recommended Racal's terms at the outset.

That said, the prices being offered are beginning to look highish given that Decca is now commanding around £30m of goodwill, albeit based on some fairly historic book values. GEC will now push Racal further this morning and it will presumably use its enormous cash resources to maximum advantage. Racal has underpinned its equity bid with a cash offer that matches GEC's exactly. I guess that GEC will simply match Racal's equity with cash. Racal's idea is that the majority of Decca shareholders will opt for the Racal shares—and on this count it still looks comfortable.

Assuming, first, that all Decca shareholders took the shares and, second, that Decca broke even next year, equity dilution would still only be of the order of 15 per cent. Racal is probably in a net borrowing position, but it can safely fund any cash option through internal funds and borrowing; gearing on the assumption of a heavy call on the cash would still be only around 45 per cent.

Nevertheless, this suggests when Racal is pushed today it will have to consider some sort of underwriting operation. There are still a few stages left for this one to run, then, and Decca shareholders should stay put.

● *Oil in as in gold the soundest adage is sell on a strike. Then the excitement ends and the grind of drilling begins. But people are shortly to be asked to buy shares in Berkeley Exploration and Production, and appropriately, it has (as yet) no worthwhile oil to gas to speak of.*

Hope is nourished by a drilling programme, and the proximity of BEPL's interests to other people's finds. Sometimes Berkeley found hydrocarbons; sometimes it encountered Jurassic sands; but all the wells so far drilled have been plugged and abandoned. There are no profits and no dividend. It is, in the jargon, a blue sky stock.

It is also the first offer for sale under Rule 163(3), a rule designed for stocks which do not fulfil official listing requirements. It is certainly an exciting stock for this accolade, an excitement undiminished by the partly paid nature of the shares. Subscribers will be asked for 50p a share to start, with the threat of a further 50p to pay, some time after March next year.

But the only sure beneficiaries of the issue are KCA, Mr Paul Bristol's publicly-quoted group which is spinning off Berkeley, the issuing house, Charterhouse Japet (fees £54,750) and the brokers. Normal investment criteria do not apply.

### London & County Paying up

Deloitte Haskins & Sells takes the view that the £900,000 it has agreed to pay in an out of court settlement of the London & County v Harmood Banner affair is a not unreasonable price for peace of mind. After all, what is a mere £900,000 against the potential £10m plus liability (damages plus costs and interest) under which the firm might otherwise have laboured for the next six months?

But the affair has implications, not just for the partners in Deloittes and their insurers, but for the profession as a whole. For if £900,000 is the price of innocence (and Deloittes is still vigorously denying the allegations of negligence against the former Harmood Banner), then what on earth is it going to cost next year to insure against the risk of guilt?

Accountants taking out professional indemnity cover under the English Institute's scheme suffered an increase in premiums this year, after three years of static costs; and what with this, Peat Marwick's little difficulty in Germany, and the Mann Judd/Barrow Hephburn affair last summer, there isn't much doubt that insurers for the big eight will be bumping up their premiums as well.

## Business Diary: Moscow Narodny's 'Niet' • BL's bulldog

As an example of the embarrassments which face the Russians at present, the dispute now brewing at the Russian-owned Moscow Narodny Bank in the City of London is pretty well punctuated—but curious, withal. The bank is a British-registered concern whose shareholders are a clutch of 40 or so Russian state finance and trading organizations. Leif Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, let it be known yesterday that a recognition dispute between the union and the bank had "come to a head".

The problem according to the BIFU is that, although the union is recognized as the bank staffs negotiating body, Moscow Narodny's management negotiators behave in such a way as to constitute "a calculated denial of that recognition".

The Russian board, the union says, refuses to give its own management to the negotiators the authority to "deal properly". But a relatively anonymous Moscow Narodny spokesman told me yesterday: "The negotiators have a full mandate to negotiate with the union. I only can't see what the union is complaining about."

"I did not feel mandated in litigation with me, however, name either the bank's chairman or the manager who was (or was not) to see me" or even the senior deputy manager "under whom where disaffected people at Moscow" by might look elsewhere for employment and tried—at it, of course—Afghan Bank in Finsbury. "They, too, would not in their Afghan too man I must conclude that is not much to choose between the two employers."

Metalcraft, a North London ornamental ironmongery company, received the first consignment of a new import yesterday—a selection of "picket castings". One attraction of these fence embellishments, the company says, is that they slot together so that you can make your own connection from the range in the catalogue. Of these, nos. 673-CF and 674-CF, Cast Iron Ball, weighing 1.5kg, are the sort of picket casting which with some chain Lord Denning might have designed.

British Leyland, on top of all their other little local difficulties, is the subject of some growing at Cruft's dog show this week. Bulldog breeders are indignant about the picture of a rather dejected looking animal in advertisements in the national newspapers on Monday with the heading "Give a dog a bad name".

Jack Bateman, a Leicestershire breeder, was one of the first to protest. "It was a terrible photograph of a not very impressive dog," he complained. "Its ears were but its mouth was wrong and there were all sorts of other faults."

Mrs Jean Saunders, breed representative on the Kennel Club liaison committee (a sort of shop steward if you like), said: "Our breed always gets the bad end of the stick. We are sick to death of it. If they want to use a picture of a bulldog they could use a good one to start with."

Mrs Anne Worth of the British Bulldog Association was rather kinder: "The dog was not a brilliant specimen—certainly not show standard—but I think it is a bit cruel to comment on it. After all, the slogan was true—bulldogs do get a bad name. The breed is always being used to depict things that are unstable, unreliable, over-weighted."

British industry, in fact,

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On the other hand, one matter is left unsorted in the precipitate end to the case which, had it run its course, might have forced up premiums even higher: and that is the novel question of whether auditors are liable for losses subsequent to and consequent on their auditing of the books. Some £4m of the £5.75m which the liquidator of London & County originally claimed was attributable to these consequential losses: and the very novelty of the claim, and uncertainty over whether it would be admitted, was one of the factors inducing him to settle out of court. So that is one battle deferred to another day.

### Takeover Code

#### An overseas attack

By far the thorniest subject, after insider dealing, the Takeover Panel has had to address itself to in the dozen years it has been trying to regulate the takeover scene is abuses of Rule 34. Broadly speaking this seeks to ensure that any party, or parties acting in concert, that acquires a stake of 30 per cent or more in a company should extend a general bid to all shareholders.

Thus the last major revision of the Code in 1978 was forced to plug the gap—exposed during the Allegheny Ludlum-Wilkinson Match affair when the United States company acquired 30 per cent of its target and then pushed up its stake to control by acquiring new shares in exchange for assets—whereby a bidder could secure control without making a general offer.

Not for the first time a foreign company is now threatening to drive a coach and horses through the Panel's rules, with a helping hand from the ending of the requirement that Treasury consent had to be obtained before a 10 per cent stake could be taken of a United Kingdom concern under the old Exchange Control regulations. Foreign intervention has caused the Panel plenty of headaches in the past.

Coincidence or not, given that one of the rumoured suitors for Consolidated Gold Fields is an Afrikaaner concern, it was General Mining five years ago that cocked a snook at the Panel by making a partial bid for Union Corporation in contravention to the spirit of the Code.

The General Mining episode exposed one of the principal weaknesses of the Panel, namely that it is only effective because it deals with a small group of City professionals who by and large know the rules of the game and understand that if they want to go on playing they will have to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Code. The upshot though of the General Mining affair was that the Panel had to relax its rules on partial bids in the case of foreign companies.

The Panel was similarly snubbed two years ago when it tried without success to find out the identity of Swiss bank clients who had purchased Dunford and Elliott shares prior to the Lourho bid.

The Gold Fields developments seem to illustrate just as clearly that if a prospective bidder wants to hide behind a foreign nominee there is nothing the Panel can do to flush him out. The ball appears to be more in the court of company law however with the disclosure requirements for United Kingdom and foreign companies over the 5 per cent ruling so divergent.

One protection which some big United Kingdom companies including BP, John Laing and Costain use is to change their articles of association to disenfranchise shareholders who hide behind nominee holdings and refuse to identify themselves.

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## Is West Germany's Post Office misusing its monopoly?

### Hamburg

The announcement by the Deutsche Bundespost (the German Federal Post Office) late last month that it intends to market telephones with extras, such as a built-in answering service, has revived the debate in West Germany about whether the organization is abusing its monopoly.

While the Post Office should be divested of some of its functions, the problem in the federal republic is how to keep the service from expanding its monopolistic position by adding new services to markets already served by private firms.

The Bundespost is a formidable competitor. Germany's largest economic enterprise and Europe's largest service organization, it is the country's biggest employer and by far the biggest spender of capital investment.

Because of huge operating surpluses in the telephone business, it has been

making a net profit of DM2.05m (about £519m) in each of the past two years, despite a stubborn deficit in traditional postal services.

The Bundespost, which operates banking and bus services besides its monopoly of post and telecommunications, has shown, under Herr Kurt Gschleide, the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. The Economics Ministry has criticized some of the Bundespost's activities.

Its telecommunications activities especially as new technology opens up fresh sectors. In the past two years the Bundespost has moved into the community aerial and cable television business, the distribution and service of teletext equipment and, now, the marketing of telephone equipment with ancillary electronic functions.

The entry into the telecopier market, in 1978 caused Otto Graf Lambsdorff (left), Economics Minister, and Herr Kurt Gschleide, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications. The Economics Ministry has criticized some of the Bundespost's activities.

It is telecommunications activities especially as new technology opens up fresh sectors. In the past two years the Bundespost has moved into the community aerial and cable television business, the distribution and service of teletext equipment and, now, the marketing of telephone equipment with ancillary electronic functions.

In the past months for instance, it has added foreign exchange and travellers cheques to its banking services. In 1978 it began offering parcel sets for sale, complete with collapsible cardboard box, tape, string, cardboard box tape, string and address card—all for as little as one mark.

These activities, which are clearly outside the Bundespost's monopoly areas, aroused criticism from banks who have always complained that it is not to be involved in this business to keep up with the technical developments.

"You have to ask where this argument ends", an official in the economics ministry said. Following that line of reasoning

researchers whereby the Bundespost agreed to limit its share of the market to 20 per cent.

Herr Gschleide's ministry argued that the Bundespost had to be involved in this business to keep up with the technical developments.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Steady advances as buyers come back in

Buyers were quite confident enough return to the market yesterday in the hope that some agreement will be reached to day with the steel unions.

Equities advanced on a broad front, accompanied by a return to favour among Government securities.

The general consensus among market gossips was that with reports of 22 per cent increases being laid on the table, the steel unions would be anxious to accept and return to work.

Even the threat of a further stoppage at BL continued to have little effect on market sentiment. Dealers were reassured by a recent survey which pointed to the fact that 65 per cent of the engineering workforce was against any form of industrial action to see the former Communist shop steward, Mr Derek Robinson, reinstated. Therefore shares, particularly in the engineering sector, began to race away again, although a stock shortage exaggerated some of the price movements.

Oil shares, too, were a firm feature, helped by overseas buying while still awaiting details of further price increases from BNOC. However, oil shares moved easier, hit by a fall in the bullion price from \$617.5 to \$639.5 on rumours that the hostages in Iran would soon be set free.

Gilt's began the day on a fairly firm note following the rally the previous evening. Buyers discounted the fears of higher base rates (and a postponed fall in MLR), and moved in. Prices rose higher, but by lunchtime most of the demand had been satisfied. It was only in after-hours that the pattern of the previous evening began to repeat itself as a shortage of stock began to push prices higher again.

In the event, longs closed at the top after some active two-way trading, with rises of

between £1 and £1, while in of the counterbid, Racal's shorter rises of a £1 were well received by the market and pushed shares of Decca 15p higher in the ordinary at 350p but saw the "A" slip 3p to 417p.

GEC moved 5p better at 371p, but the one drawback came in the form of some heavy buying of Racal, which pushed the shares 5p stronger and was thought in some quarters to have been done to help out the paper side of Racal's bid.

Plessey was still waiting in the wings in the hope of being picked up, advancing a further 2p to 141p, but Ferranti, another mentioned takeover prospect, held firm at 484p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Eurotherm International at 336p and Diploma Investments at 433p were both 5p higher and Berie improved 5p to 104p. But Bowthorpe Holdings remained unchanged at 112p, while ICL dipped 5p to 518p after further consideration of the chairman's statement, the result annual general meeting.

Engineering remained in confident mood, pinning its hopes on the steel wages settlement and helped by some stock shortage. Tubes at 296p and Simon Engineering at 234p were both 8p better, while risers of 7p were noted in Stone-Platt at 55p and GKN at 72p. Other rises included Hawker Siddeley 4p to 192p, Johnson Firth Brown 4p to 41p and Metal Box 6p to 254p.

But once again it was electricals which held the market's attention, with Racal's 92p 4p to 192p, BAT's at 261p, Reed International at 234p and 200p and Rank Organisation at 222p.

But once again it was electricals which held the market's attention, with Racal's 92p 4p to 192p, Johnson Firth Brown 4p to 41p and Metal Box 6p to 254p.

Oils began the day on a firm note, helped by some good overnight business in New York and hopes of an announcement of price rise details from BNOC.

However, further overseas buying following the start of business in New York saw shares finish at their best levels in after-hours trading.

Dunlop rose a further 1p to 60p,

which still leaves them 20p away from the 1979-80 high.

Apart from a growing confidence in the group's streamlining, there are stories going round of riches in the wholly owned Rhodesian interests, which the hopeful say, may get a bid. Then again, they may not.

Other special features included Wholesale Fittings, 30p higher at 530p in a thin market, while Avana rose 7p to 113p in spite of a bid denial from the chairman and British Air Cargo recovered 20p to 50p ahead of an expected announcement on the group's future today.

It is thought that a price-

which at the current rate could total £40.5m—has been agreed,

but no announcements is

expected until early next week.

The deal has to go back to

Shank Nasser for his approval

and as today is the Muslim

Sabbath, he will not consider the details until the weekend.

But Mr C. R. Haskins, deputy chairman, was quick to point out that the purchase which lifted Northern Foods stage in Avana to about 10 per cent was purely for investment purposes and the group would "definitely" launch a full-scale bid.

In the meantime, Armitage

Shanks continued to gain ground

on the hopes of a high bid,

rising 2p to 101p a share.

Blue Circle Industries rose 60p to 304p. Serck gained another

1p to 704p, on reflection of Rockwell's attempt at closer

cooperation.

Rubbers continued to im-

prove, spurred along by the

high price of rubber and bid

rumours. Gthrus jumped 20p to

757p on hopes of a bid soon

from Sie Darby, while elsewhere,

Castfield leapt 42p to 505p,

London Sumatra 15p to 445p

and Malaysia 20p to 251p.

Equity turnover on February

6 was £10.424m (15,432 bar-

gains). Active stocks yesterday

according to the Exchange Tele-

graph, were Chartered, Con-

solidated Gold Fields, Lasmo,

Dowty, BP, R.T.Z., Racal,

Burman, Shell, Imperial Con-

tinental Gas and Beecham.

at 68p, as Premier Cons, an active share of late, advanced 3p to 68p.

Speculative interest directed

attention to Foster Bros in

stores, 10p higher at 88p,

Sotheby Parke-Bernet 8p better

at 515p, Ropner Holdings 11p

higher at 75p and Furness

Withy 16p heavier at 264p.

Style Shoes rose 17p to 190p

in spite of a bid denial from

the chairman and British Air

Cargo recovered 20p to 50p

ahead of an expected announce-

ment on the group's future

today.

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Mr Lacey's move brought an

immediate response from

the chairman Mr Roland

"Tiny" Rowland who said that

Mr Lacey would join the board

of Lonrho over his dead

body. "We would not have Mr

Lacey on our board if he was

the last man on earth", he was

reported to have said.

It is understood that advisers

close to Shakti Nasser, whose

potential sellers of their stake, flew

to Washington to attend Presi-

dent Carter's morning prayer

meeting with Mr Lacey and

talked later about the finer

points of the deal.

Mr Ferguson said then: "We

are satisfied that Mr Lacey can

finance the purchase of the

shares if an agreement is

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Western Mining puts up profits four-fold

Western Mining, one of the biggest and fastest growing mining companies in Australia, saw its profits before tax and extraordinary items and after interest rise almost four times in the six months to January 8 to A\$44.3m (£21.4m).

Although the doubling in the received price of gold and the five-fold increase in received silver price were important, more profitable nickel operations remain the key to Western Mining's operation.

The company is Australia's largest nickel producer and one of the few in the world to be consistently profitable. Sales of nickel rose 36 per cent by value in spite of a fall of 16 per cent to 21,016 tonnes in production.

## Sunshine Silver

Natural resource companies and underwriting firms are showing special interest in Sunshine Mining Company's latest discovery. Some of them are thinking of staking similar claims, writes AP-Dow Jones.

Sunshine's newest find is an unusual kind of debt-security

## Wall Street

New York, Feb 7.—Stocks rose for heavy trading this morning after yesterday's strong afternoon rally. Advances led declines more than two-to-one, and the Dow Jones Industrial average added four points.

Rails, which along with oil led yesterday's advances, were strong again. Union Pacific added 23 to 88, Missouri Pacific 11 to 59, St Louis and San Francisco 11 to 72, Chesapeake 11 to 32, Norfolk 21 to 43, and Southern Pacific 21 to 47.

Volume leader Gulf Oil added 11 to 62. Mobil 10 to 62 and Exxon 10 to 63.

February 6: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 5.21 points up at 881.83.

New York, Feb 6.—Blue chip issues rallied strongly higher in afternoon trading. The advancing issues managed to outpace the decliners, 620 to 620.

The Dow Jones Industrial average closed at 881.83 up 5.21 in a large surge of buying.

Volume jumped to 51,950,000 shares from Tuesday's New York Stock Exchange total of 41,880,000 shares.

## Gold steady

Gold stayed in range of \$712.50 to \$714.00. COMEX Feb 7: \$713.00. Mar 7: \$718.00. Apr 7: \$718.00. Oct 7: \$702.60. Dec 7: \$714.00. Feb 8: \$713.00. Mar 8: \$712.00. Oct 8: \$701.70. Dec 8: \$702.70.

CHICAGO IMM—Feb. 8713.00. Mar. 8712.00. May 8712.00. Sep. 8712.00. Dec. 8712.00.

SILVER closed at 377.50 after yesterday's 3.50 rise. Mar. 357.50. April 360.00. May 362.00. June 364.00. July 365.40. Oct. 367.50. Dec. 369.70.

COPPER—Feb. 8713.50. Mar. 8713.50. Apr. 8713.75. May 8713.50. June 8713.75. July 8713.50. Sep. 8713.50. Oct. 8713.50. Dec. 8713.50.

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## Further buying

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Today. § Comango day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 13.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

# **BELL'S** SCOTCH WHISKY **BELL'S**

## THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the fast prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 Industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recom-

## Motoring

### Strong views on styling and function

My recent invitation to readers to air their views on car styling has brought a gratifying wad of correspondence and some trenchant comments which I am happy to pass on to any manufacturers who may be reading. Perhaps surprisingly, in this emotionally personal area, there was a large measure of agreement.

Mr Kenneth Hillier, from London, speaks for several readers in voting the Citroën CX "one of the most attractive and beautifully designed four-door saloon cars in the world". He particularly likes the GLi version, with its matt black window surrounds, in which he has an ally in Mr T. G. Parsons, of Oxford, who sums up the GLi as "individualism without gaudiness".

For Dr John Sleigh, from Gwent, both the CX and the smaller, similarly styled GS are "beauties" and he compares the CX with BL's Rover which, despite the same basic shape, is, in his eyes, "hideous".



Fairest of them all?—the Citroën CX

A more reasoned critique of the Rover comes from Mr Sunil Shah, of North Wembley, who likes the "very good aerodynamic shape" but not the bumpers—more suited to a Datsun Sunny—or the grooves along the side of the body. He also thinks that the rest of the Rover range could benefit from the smaller wheels fitted to the 3500S model.

Apart from the Citroën, cars generally admired for their styling include the Ford Fiesta (several votes), Talbot Sunbeam and Alpine, Volkswagen Scirocco, Golf, the Audi 80 and the BMW 3 Series which is preferred to other BMWs.

Lotus is praised as a stylish sports car and the Aston Martin Lagonda for looking like "a toy today". The Alfa Romeo Alfetta and Alfetta have their advocates, although Mr Douglas McLean, from Enfield, finds the Giulietta "amazingly ugly".

Wooden spoons go to the Austin Allegro estate—"hideously and pointlessly ugly"—and the BL Princess, which Mr R. F. Helyer, of Portsmouth, calls "the ugliest car on the road today, not excepting the small Citroën and Renault".

The only BL model unreservedly praised, curiously enough, is the Range-Rover, although there is also support for Jaguar (the saloons rather than the XJ-S), while Mr J. Proctor, from Cumbria, puts the case for a car no longer made, the Triumph 2000 Estate.

Japanese cars get plenty of criticism. "Absolutely frightful" is the opinion of Mr Hollick, who wonders how any designer could arrive at such body proportions and door designs". Mr Parsons thinks that by a short head the Datsuns have been the worst-styled Japanese cars. "The nadir was surely reached

with the Sunny and Bluebird of the mid-seventies, with their distorted shapes adorned by grotesque plastic sculpture".

Mr Hollick even dares to criticize the "best car in the world". He feels that Rolls-Royce body styling has not advanced for 15 years and that the front end of the Camargue (a car costing £71,000) "appears to have been designed by Swedish truck manufacturer".

For some readers, practicality is more important than aesthetics. Mr Michael Brook, of Ilford, puts that argument very well in saying that bodies should be designed, not styled, and buyers should ask not whether the body is good but whether the parts fit their function.

A good recent example of functional design, according to Mr Brook, is the Citroën Visa, whose bodyshell "is designed to cover the mechanics and the occupants and to cut the air with minimum fuss while remaining compact and practical".

An older model he cites is the "superbly bodied" Volvo 960, "a car and aerodynamic". Introduced back in 1967, it is still, he considers, bang up to date; and of what other car can that be said?

And that is where I propose to leave the matter, except for a couple of observations. The first is that cars are not necessarily handicapped by being regarded as ugly. witness the sales record of the Volkswagen Beetle, the Citroën 2CV, the Renault 4 and the enormous success of the Japanese motor industry.

The other point is that hardly any letterer mentioned that conventional styling, "practised by Mercedes-Benz and Peugeot", which neither excites nor offends, and may in the

long run be the most effective.

#### Road test: Volvo 345

The Dutch-built small Volvo had an unhappy launch. It was wildly overpriced, offered in only one version, a three-door autostick, and even let Volvo down in its areas of traditional strength, quality and reliability.

But much has happened in the three and a half years since the car first went on sale. Helped by favourable currency movements, prices have become more competitive and Volvo claims that the faults which plagued some early models have now been eliminated.

Just as significant has been the widening of the range. First, the gears automatic transmission that Volvo inherited from its take-over of Daf was joined by a manual box, which soon became the majority. An automatic, which was itself developed by 300 per cent in 1979. Then, at the start of this year, came a five-door version, the 345, to supplement the original three-door 343.

One of the drawbacks of the 343 was that it looked too big a car to offer at least the option of rear side-doors. Admittedly, two doors are cheaper, but they are also more inconvenient and with child-proof locks now widely fitted (the 345 has them) the argument about children being safer in the back with no effort to open is irrelevant. But the ideal is to give the customer a choice, and this Volvo now does.

A word about the manual gearbox, an adaptation of the box used in the big Volvos—the Daf automatic could not be easier to operate, but it does provide rather leisurely acceleration

which in turn encourages the driver to push the engine hard and increase noise.

The manual box mates well with the 1397 cc Renault engine, giving smooth changes and considerably better performance, the 0 to 60 mph time falling from 17 seconds to 12. Overall, it is a good car, as well, although towards 70 mph the engine does begin to sound harsh: a case, perhaps, for a change in gearing. There is little to choose on economy, my return on the manual car being 26 to 33 mpg.

Apart from the pleasant gear-change, the car benefits from light, accurate steering, with a good turning circle, and effective brakes. The ride-handling compromise is not entirely successful, for the suspension—Diel rear axle with solid leaf springs—gives a firm ride, becoming increasingly rough and noisy as speeds increase. But roadholding is impressive and the car has a sportier feel than its appearance might suggest.

The 345 is an unusual size, its overall length of 13ft 9in putting it roughly halfway between a typical light car, like the Ford Escort, and a medium car, like the Corolla. It is good to have compactness from the parking point of view, but the 345 is a little short on rear passenger space, particularly headroom.

The boot, though having a high lip, is roomy and can be greatly extended by folding down the rear seat (not, however, an easy thing to do). The fascia has been smartened considerably since the car first appeared. The heating system includes separate provision for the rear passengers and the driving seat.

Peter Waymark

After April 1 no new car may be driven on the road without a rear fog lamp (or lamps) and many manufacturers are already fitting them. But what in fog may be an important safety feature can be just the opposite when visibility is good. Being of a high intensity, these lamps can dazzle drivers immediately behind and even make overtaking the eye from the road ahead.

The law is clear on the matter, saying that fog lamps must be used only in "conditions of poor visibility", such as fog, snow, heavy rain and spray. The trouble is that it is easy to switch the lamps on by mistake, since the widely used fascia symbol looks like a headlight.

I was very quickly made aware of the fact by the flashing and honking of other drivers. That indicates how bright in normal conditions the lamp can be.

The New Dealership for Talbot in the City

have just opened at 83/89

Gray's Inn Road, WC1

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1979 CX Prestige. C-matic. All-cond. 1,000 miles. £7,950.  
1979 V. CX 2400 Pallas. Injection. C-matic. 4,000 miles. £6,550.  
1978 CX 2400 Familiare. C-matic. 12,000 miles. £4,950.  
1979 V. CX Athens. 3,000 miles. £5,750.  
1979 GS Pallas. Choice from £3,495.  
1979 GS Club Estate. Choice from £3,300.  
1979 2CV6. 5,000 miles. £1,975.

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## Motoring

### Strong views on styling and function

My recent invitation to readers to air their views on car styling has brought a gratifying wad of correspondence and some trenchant comments which I am happy to pass on to any manufacturers who may be reading. Perhaps surprisingly, in this emotionally personal area, there was a large measure of agreement.

Mr Kenneth Hillier, from London, speaks for several readers in voting the Citroën CX "one of the most attractive and beautifully designed four-door saloon cars in the world". He particularly likes the GLi version, with its matt black window surrounds, in which he has an ally in Mr T. G. Parsons, of Oxford, who sums up the GLi as "individualism without gaudiness".

For Dr John Sleigh, from Gwent, both the CX and the smaller, similarly styled GS are "beauties" and he compares the CX with BL's Rover which, despite the same basic shape, is, in his eyes, "hideous".



Fairest of them all?—the Citroën CX

A more reasoned critique of the Rover comes from Mr Sunil Shah, of North Wembley, who likes the "very good aerodynamic shape" but not the bumpers—more suited to a Datsun Sunny—or the grooves along the side of the body. He also thinks that the rest of the Rover range could benefit from the smaller wheels fitted to the 3500S model.

Apart from the Citroën, cars generally admired for their styling include the Ford Fiesta (several votes), Talbot Sunbeam and Alpine, Volkswagen Scirocco, Golf, the Audi 80 and the BMW 3 Series which is preferred to other BMWs.

Lotus is praised as a stylish sports car and the Aston Martin Lagonda for looking like "a toy today". The Alfa Romeo Alfetta and Alfetta have their advocates, although Mr Douglas McLean, from Enfield, finds the Giulietta "amazingly ugly".

Wooden spoons go to the Austin Allegro estate—"hideously and pointlessly ugly"—and the BL Princess, which Mr R. F. Helyer, of Portsmouth, calls "the ugliest car on the road today, not excepting the small Citroën and Renault".

The only BL model unreservedly praised, curiously enough, is the Range-Rover, although there is also support for Jaguar (the saloons rather than the XJ-S), while Mr J. Proctor, from Cumbria, puts the case for a car no longer made, the Triumph 2000 Estate.

Japanese cars get plenty of criticism. "Absolutely frightful" is the opinion of Mr Hollick, who wonders how any designer could arrive at such body proportions and door designs". Mr Parsons thinks that by a short head the Datsuns have been the worst-styled Japanese cars. "The nadir was surely reached

with the Sunny and Bluebird of the mid-seventies, with their distorted shapes adorned by grotesque plastic sculpture".

#### Road test: Volvo 345

The Dutch-built small Volvo had an unhappy launch. It was wildly overpriced, offered in only one version, a three-door autostick, and even let Volvo down in its areas of traditional strength, quality and reliability.

But much has happened in the three and a half years since the car first went on sale. Helped by favourable currency movements, prices have become more competitive and Volvo claims that the faults which plagued some early models have now been eliminated.

Just as significant has been the widening of the range. First, the gears automatic transmission that Volvo inherited from its take-over of Daf was joined by a manual box, which soon became the majority. An automatic, which was itself developed by 300 per cent in 1979. Then, at the start of this year, came a five-door version, the 345, to supplement the original three-door 343.

One of the drawbacks of the 343 was that it looked too big a car to offer at least the option of rear side-doors. Admittedly, two doors are cheaper, but they are also more inconvenient and with child-proof locks now widely fitted (the 345 has them) the argument about children being safer in the back with no effort to open is irrelevant. But the ideal is to give the customer a choice, and this Volvo now does.

A word about the manual gearbox, an adaptation of the box used in the big Volvos—the Daf automatic could not be easier to operate, but it does provide rather leisurely acceleration

which in turn encourages the driver to push the engine hard and increase noise.

The manual box mates well with the 1397 cc Renault engine, giving smooth changes and considerably better performance, the 0 to 60 mph time falling from 17 seconds to 12. Overall, it is a good car, as well, although towards 70 mph the engine does begin to sound harsh: a case, perhaps, for a change in gearing. There is little to choose on economy, my return on the manual car being 26 to 33 mpg.

Apart from the pleasant gear-change, the car benefits from light, accurate steering, with a good turning circle, and effective brakes. The ride-handling compromise is not entirely successful, for the suspension—Diel rear axle with solid leaf springs—gives a firm ride, becoming increasingly rough and noisy as speeds increase. But roadholding is impressive and the car has a sportier feel than its appearance might suggest.

The 345 is an unusual size, its overall length of 13ft 9in putting it roughly halfway between a typical light car, like the Ford Escort, and a medium car, like the Corolla. It is good to have compactness from the parking point of view, but the 345 is a little short on rear passenger space, particularly headroom.

The boot, though having a high lip, is roomy and can be greatly extended by folding down the rear seat (not, however, an easy thing to do). The fascia has been smartened considerably since the car first appeared. The heating system includes separate provision for the rear passengers and the driving seat.

Peter Waymark

After April 1 no new car may be driven on the road without a rear fog lamp (or lamps) and many manufacturers are already fitting them. But what in fog may be an important safety feature can be just the opposite when visibility is good. Being of a high intensity, these lamps can dazzle drivers immediately behind and even make overtaking the eye from the road ahead.

The law is clear on the matter, saying that fog lamps must be used only in "conditions of poor visibility", such as fog, snow, heavy rain and spray. The trouble is that it is easy to switch the lamps on by mistake, since the widely used fascia symbol looks like a headlight.

I was very quickly made aware of the fact by the flashing and honking of other drivers. That indicates how bright in normal conditions the lamp can be.

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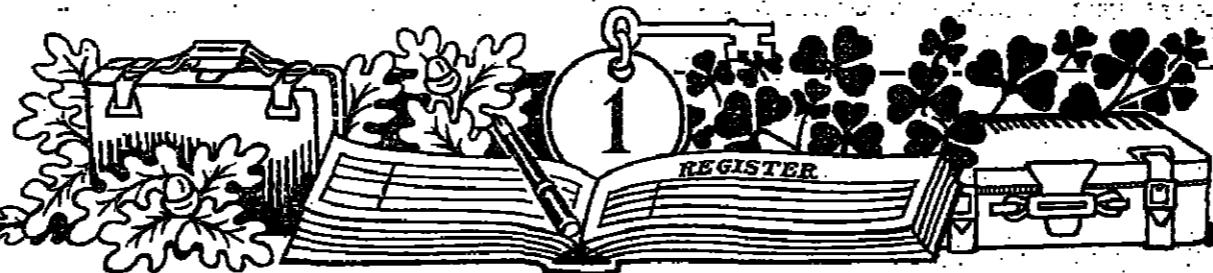
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Peter and Bobbie (Sarah) Gould,  
Paul, a daughter (Sarah) Roseine,  
Linda, a son (John) Michael and  
Simon, a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

WENDY—On February 3 at

the San Jose Hospital, Tokyo,

Japan, to John and Linda, a

boy.

RONALD—On February 4 at

the Royal Hospital, London,

to Geraldine and George

Basin, a son (Alexander) David,

Pauline, a daughter (Sarah) Nigella

CLARE—On February 5 at The

Westminster Hospital, London,

to John and Linda, a son (John)

CHARLES—On February 5th, at

the Westminster Hospital, to

Rachel, a son (John) Thomas

EATON—On February 4 to

John and Linda, a son (John) Paul,

Anthony Michael, a brother for

Patricia.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,143

This puzzle, used at the Chester regional final of the Cutty

Sark Times National Crossword,

was solved within 30 minutes by 46 per cent of the finalists.

1 Painter mad about job in-

volving dancing (13).

9 How treat a priest—tur-  
bulent female (9).

10 See 1 dn.

11 A man, say, goes this way

with his bride (5).

12 Merely born by one of those

magnificent men (4).

13 Beasty accommodation in

the French manner (4).

15 Force in untried parts (7).

17 Music from Victoria? (7).

18 Spanish ship detailed to

carry one astronomer (7).

20 Yonder is a girl (7).

21 Fashion class (4).

22 Case for reallocating duties

in the Centre (4).

23 Refuse a pound after start

of horse race (5).

26 Greatly disliked one's cover

notes (5).

27 Run finished with cast upset

(9).

28 Setting right radio smashed by this? (13).

DOWN

1 and 10 of Sly entertainment

(5, 6, 2, 3, 5).

2 Birds round Tattenham Cor-

ner for instance (5).

3 How maliciously King Gama

poked sarcastic jokes (10).

BIRTHS

GERARD LEIGH—On February 5 at the Linda Wing, St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in London, wife of Dr. Peter Leigh, a member of the Royal Air Force Authority. Husband the late Sir Michael Leigh, 1st Baronet of Khampton. Funeral on Thursday, February 9, 1980, at 2.30 pm, at St. Pancras Church, London NW1.

KERNER—On February 6th at Northgate, in Andover, Hampshire, to Christopher and Elizabeth (Linda) Kerners, a daughter (Eliza) Elizabeth.

JOHN—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) John, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

KIRKMAN—On February 6th at Northgate, in Andover, Hampshire, to Christopher and Elizabeth (Linda) Kirkman, a daughter (Eliza) Elizabeth.

LEONARD—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Leonard, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

LINDA—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Linda, a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

LOVETT—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Lovett, a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

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MICHAEL—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Michael, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

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MICHAEL—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Michael, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

MICHAEL—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Michael, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

MICHAEL—On February 6th at 10.30 am, at St. John's Hospital, London NW1, to Michael and Linda (John) Michael, a son (John) Michael and a daughter (Sarah) Linda.

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